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Herald Tribune



INTERNATIONAL

TODAY:
ESCAPE
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PUBLISHED WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON POST

The World's Daily Newspaper

R

Paris, Friday, September 4, 1998

No. 35,927



Canadian policemen aboard a boat off Nova Scotia inspecting debris from the Swissair crash.

No Hope of Swissair Jet Survivors Terrorism Doubted in Crash, With 229 Aboard, Off Nova Scotia

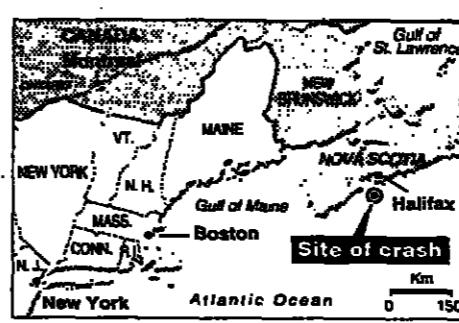
By Brian Knowlton
International Herald Tribune

WASHINGTON — Canadian search and rescue teams found part of a Swiss airliner's fuselage in deep waters off a Nova Scotia fishing town on Thursday but held no hope that any of the 229 passengers and crew members aboard survived a desperate attempt to land at sea after smoke filled the cockpit.

The crash of the wide-bodied MD-11 jet, Flight 111, Wednesday evening on a flight from New York to Geneva was the worst ever for Swissair, which is ranked as one of the world's safest airlines. It was nearly as deadly as the explosion in July 1996 of TWA Flight 800 off Long Island, New York, in which 230 people died.

Canadian authorities and the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation said that there were no immediate signs that would point to sabotage or terrorism.

The pilots were attempting to reach Halifax International Airport after reporting the smoke problem to air traffic controllers in New Brunswick. Many passengers had time to don life



jackets and brace for an emergency landing.

Swissair said that 137 American passengers were on the plane, as well as 50 French citizens, 28 Swiss and 6 Britons. The rest of the passengers came from 10 other countries.

The Americans included Dr. Jonathan Mann, a prominent AIDS expert, and his wife, Mary Lou Clements-Mann, a researcher at Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Mann was the first AIDS director for the World Health Organization. Page 2.

At least seven United Nations staff mem-

bers, and probably more, were on the plane, a UN spokesman said. Swissair Flight 111 was frequently used by UN employees. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said he was "deeply saddened" by news of the crash, and flags were lowered outside UN buildings.

Canadian military planes and helicopters, joined by a flotilla of fishing boats, scoured choppy waters about seven miles (11 kilometers) off Nova Scotia through the night, using flares and searchlights. "There were very rough seas, very high winds," a police spokesman said.

More than 150 civilian and military rescuers continued the search Thursday, with skies clearing but hopes dimming fast. About 40 bodies were recovered by early afternoon.

"After I saw what was left and how small the pieces of debris were, you lose all sense of hope," Jim Buckley, a rescue worker, said on CNN. He called the crash site "horrible."

Among a scattering of life jackets, clothing and an oil slick that may have been caused when pilots dumped jet fuel, rescuers found no

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Moscow Bars Citizens From Bank Accounts

Ruble Continues Decline, Adding to Woes

By Sharon LaFraniere
Washington Post Service

MOSCOW — The Russian government began enforcing a two-month freeze on withdrawals from six major commercial banks on Thursday in an effort to prevent a wholesale collapse of the banking system.

At the same time, the ruble continued to decline. By the end of the day, a ruble was worth only 7 cents, compared with 16 cents two weeks ago.

The combination of events delivered a double blow to ordinary Russians already hit hard by the country's financial crisis: another cut in their buying power, and the prospect of losing millions of dollars in the banks.

The six banks included in the freeze, which was ordered on Wednesday night, now hold 14 billion rubles, or the equivalent of about \$980 million at Thursday's rate.

The Central Bank said depositors would be able to take out their funds on Nov. 15. But unless the government

can somehow halt the ruble's dramatic crash, their funds will most likely be worth far less by then. Those with accounts in dollars will be no luckier. The Central Bank said they would be paid at an exchange rate that collapsed Monday — 9.3 rubles to the dollar, compared with 13.4 on Thursday.

Acting Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said clients of the six banks might transfer their accounts to the government-owned Sberbank and have the comfort of knowing the government insures their funds. But, he acknowledged, "There will be certain losses."

On the streets of Moscow, people greeted the latest wave of bad news with fury. "I think it's highway robbery," said one young man in line at one bank packed like a subway car at rush hour.

"How can you trust Sberbank if you don't trust the country?" one woman asked.

"Now we're like animals scratching at the window, saying: 'Give us our



A woman in Moscow looking at food products Thursday as Moscow citizens rushed to stock up on goods before the ruble lost more value.

money! Give us back our money!'"

said Sergei Ivanov, 39, who works for an emergency medical service. "But the train has already left, as they say."

Meanwhile, Mr. Chernomyrdin's prospects of winning confirmation as prime minister appeared to improve slightly. The Duma, the lower house of

Parliament, which overwhelmingly rejected his nomination on Monday, has scheduled a second vote for Friday. If the legislators refuse three times to approve the nomination, President Boris Yeltsin can dissolve the Duma

See RUSSIA, Page 12

An Enemy of Russian Economic Reform: Barter

By Sharon LaFraniere
Washington Post Service

NARFOMINSK, Russia — Natalia Karpova, a supervisor at a fabric factory here on the outskirts of Moscow, heard good news a couple of weeks ago. Three carloads of concrete utility poles had arrived at the train station.

This was a matter of utmost importance to Miss Karpova, because her factory was a year behind on its electric bill and had no cash on hand. The electric company agreed to accept utility poles instead,

but how to pay for utility poles with no rubles? Simple. First, her factory shipped fabric 300 kilometers to a sewing factory in Nizhni Novgorod. In exchange for the fabric, that factory sewed shirts for the security guards who work at a nearby automobile maker. In exchange for the shirts, the auto factory shipped a car and truck to a concrete plant. In exchange for the vehicles, the concrete plant delivered the poles to the electric company.

Thus did the Narfomshok fabric factory pay for the power to run its dye machines. But only for a while. "Now they want a steam

shovel," said Miss Karpova, with a little sigh. This is how Miss Karpova's factory and much of Russia's industry survives these days: barter. By some estimates, it accounts for almost three-fourths of all transactions. For instance, Gazprom, Russia's giant natural gas monopoly, conducts 80 percent of its business in barter, said the Finance Ministry.

Barter is poisoning the development of capitalism in Russia because it consumes huge amounts of time that would be better spent producing goods. It cloaks

See BARTER, Page 12

Ulster Peace Taking Root

Hope for 'New Era' as Clinton Arrives in Belfast

By Warren Hoge
New York Times Service

BELFAST — If President Bill Clinton visited Moscow at one of Russia's most trying moments, he came to Belfast at one of Northern Ireland's most promising.

Recent weeks have produced an unexpected momentum here toward firming up the terms of the April peace settlement, and for the first time people are expressing confidence that the conflict between the Protestant and Roman

Clinton speaks to relatives of victims of the Omagh bombing. Page 12.

Catholic communities that has cost more than 3,200 lives in the past three decades may be over.

"I believe that the type of violence we have seen for 30 years has ended, and we are entering a new phase in the type of approach we have to the political process," said Seamus Mallon, the

deputy leader of the new Northern Ireland Assembly.

Emblematic of the change in habits was the scene Thursday of Mr. Mallon and the Assembly's leader, David Trimble, enthusiastically if awkwardly waving at crowds of cheering people who turned out on a brilliantly sunny day in Belfast to greet the president.

NEWS ANALYSIS People have been accustomed to see them instead addressing the public with grim press briefings on the intransigence of their political opponents and then ducking into drab government buildings where peace talks dragged on for more than two years. Until recent weeks, people were also unaccustomed to seeing the president.

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Clinton speaks to relatives of victims of the Omagh bombing. Page 12.

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AGENDA

Iraq Now Blocks Routine UN Inspections

UNITED NATIONS, New York (AP) — The chief UN weapons inspector told the Security Council on Thursday that even under the reduced inspection program in Iraq, UN monitors had been denied access to sites previously approved by Baghdad.

The briefing by Richard Butler came as the United States and Britain introduced a draft resolution that would suspend sanctions reviews until Iraq reversed its Aug. 5 decision to

freeze cooperation with UN inspectors. That decision has prevented inspectors from carrying out any new inspections of suspected weapons sites.

Iraq has said that monitoring of previously checked sites was not affected, but in his briefing, Mr. Butler said that on Aug. 16, UN monitors were refused access to a facility "which had been inspected within the scope of monitoring in the past."

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The IHT on-line www.iht.com

By David E. Sanger

New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — Inside the U.S. Treasury Department, some of the strategists desperately seeking to contain spreading outbreaks of financial chaos once called their approach the "firewall strategy."

The idea was straightforward and born of U.S. success in containing the Mexican peso crisis in 1995. As foreign currencies plummeted and investors fled — first from Thailand, then Indonesia, then South Korea and now Russia — the Treasury and the International Monetary Fund would stitch together a bailout that insisted on far-reaching reforms, which would rebuild national economies in America's image.

The hope was that the emergency support from the IMF would buy some time, and the promise of change — cleaning up failing banks, imposing austerity and ending corruption and crony capitalism — would lure back investors and protect the United States and other countries from economic contagion.

But now firewall strategy is coming undone. It has collided, some Clinton administration officials concede, with the inability — or unwillingness — of weak or inexperienced foreign governments to give stock and currency markets what they want.

"The political price of complying with the markets' demands are finally hitting home," said Robert Hormats, vice chairman of Goldman, Sachs, which was an investor in Asia and has been deeply involved in the bailouts of South Korea and Russia. "And they simply seem too high."

In Russia, the strategy never amounted to more than a few haphazardly placed bricks. The Parliament has refused to enact many of the IMF's conditions; See FIREWALLS, Page 17

Malaysian Power Shuffle Hides a Battle Over Image

By Thomas Fuller
International Herald Tribune

KUALA LUMPUR — Beyond disagreements over economic policy and allegations of misconduct lies a deeper rift between Malaysia's former deputy prime minister, Anwar Ibrahim, and the man who fired him, Prime Minister Mahathir bin Mohamad.

The story of these two men and their struggle for power over the past year is about style, image control and the way in which Mr. Anwar positioned himself on the world scene as a moderate and acceptable choice for prime minister — a move taken at the expense of his outspoken boss.

Mr. Anwar, 51, press savvy and ambitious, was until Wednesday the prime minister's anointed successor. Mr. Mahathir, the country's leader for 16 years, is

awkward in front of cameras and is often described as an old-school politician: not caring much for polishing his image for the sake of the media and foreign fund managers.

With a retinue of analysts, spin doctors and speechwriters, Mr. Anwar went to pains to portray himself as

Anwar is expelled from ruling party. Page 4.

a liberal and dynamic alternative to Mr. Mahathir. Realizing the importance of image control, he and his advisers gave special treatment to the foreign media in Malaysia through interviews and candid off-the-record briefings.

Mr. Anwar, who was also finance minister, was in favor of generational change and was in touch with the

world, his advisers stressed; Mr. Mahathir was a crony capitalist who should step down.

Mr. Mahathir is a frequent critic of the media, and, in his usual unfiltered style, has attacked currency speculators for "destroying" the Malaysian economy, warned of neo-colonialism and even said he suspected a Jewish conspiracy was at work in precipitating the regional economic crisis.

His attitude toward the press is more raw than Mr. Anwar's: control, not spin. He meets regularly with editors of local newspapers admonishing them to be more "positive" in their coverage. And when he feels the coverage is unfair, he uses street tactics. Last month two top editors allied with Mr. Anwar were dismissed from their posts.

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Jordan	10.00 D.D.U.A.E.
Kuwait	700 Fils U.S. M.E. (E.U.) \$1.20



AT&T

From Rich to Richer / Stock Options Make the Difference

U.S.-Style Executive Pay Slowly Catches On Worldwide

By David Cay Johnston
New York Times Service

ROSE GERRIT HUY was a fast-rising executive at Daimler-Benz AG, the German industrial giant that makes Mercedes-Benz automobiles. A Harvard-educated economist, she was in charge of developing cars like the SLK roadster before she was promoted to head the company's finance and telecommunications subsidiary.

But last year, Ms. Huy, 43, quit Daimler after 11 years to become Compaq Computer Corp.'s managing director in Germany. Not that her Daimler salary was skimpy, but the Texas-based computer maker offered something that could capture her into vastly greater riches: stock options.

Ms. Huy would not disclose the size of the options package that lured her away, but these numbers provide a clue: While the chairman of Daimler holds a form of options worth less than \$1 million, the options of the Compaq chairman are worth more than \$188 million at last count.

For the last two decades, even as the global economy has demolished national barriers to trade and investment, the executive pay gap between America and the rest of the world has widened dramatically.

That is largely because the political cultures of many European and Asian countries recoil at the idea of lavishing vast riches on capitalist chieftains for a single year's work. Many Europeans were left agast by pay packages like the \$49.9 million that the Travelers Group chairman, Sanford Weil, collected in 1997, or the more than \$556 million that Michael Eisner, chairman of Walt Disney Co., made in 1997 by exercising fewer than half of his stock options.

Now, though, that attitude is changing, albeit slowly. To stem a drain of executive talent to their American rivals, big corporations in Europe and Asia have begun pressing their governments to modify securities laws and accounting practices that discourage jumbo pay packages.

Stock options give the holder the right to buy shares at a given price over a specified period, usually 10 years. If the stock surges, the holder can exercise the option, sell the stock at a much higher price and pocket the difference.

"The rest of the world is moving to our pay model," said Kevin Murphy, a University of Southern California finance professor and a leading expert on worldwide executive pay. "Maybe that movement is out of efficiency, maybe it is out of greed — we don't know which yet — but the trend is clear."

Graef Crystal, the editor of an executive-com-

pensation newsletter who once designed executive pay plans, took a more jaundiced view. "The virus," he said, "is now spreading around the world."

Last year, for example, Japan revised its commercial code to allow stock options. Already, 160 companies, including Sony Corp., the entertainment and electronics concern, have adopted option plans, according to Bob Buford, a compensation specialist who has worked with many Japanese companies.

The invasion of American-style pay plans, including stock options, is uneven in Europe, specialists say. It is happening faster in the high technology sector, and slower in manufacturing and heavy industry. But it is having a big impact wherever it is found, and the recent turmoil in global stock markets, although it may have cut the value of some compensation packages, is unlikely to have any long-term effect on equity-based pay.

In France, the Netherlands and Australia, a few companies have started adding options and other forms of equity to executive compensation packages, a practice that the British began widely adopting in the early 1980s.

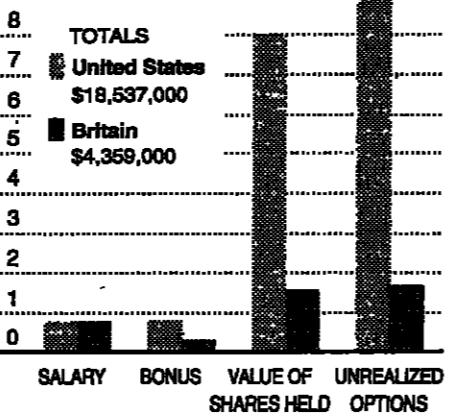
"The world is very moving to the U.S. model because it works very well for shareholders," said Steven Kaplan, a finance professor at the University of Chicago.

Even in America, where offering stock options is widespread, the practice is controversial, especially when poor-performing executives

Shares Make All the Difference

American executives typically earn much more than their counterparts abroad. With base salaries relatively equal, the difference is almost entirely due to stock options. Britain has been adding stock options and other forms of equity to executive pay, but is still far behind the United States.

Median compensation for CEOs of large companies in 1997:



Source: William M. Mercer Inc.

walk away with multi-million-dollar payoffs either because their stock has been held aloft by the bull market or because the exercise price has been reset downward.

Despite all the criticism, other countries are embracing the practice. In London, Paul Hodgson, an editor at Income Data Services, which tracks executive compensation at British companies, said that the "only difference is in the size of pay, not the components, which are going toward the U.S. style."

While options in Britain have tended to be modest, Unilever PLC, the British household-products maker, and Marks & Spencer PLC, Britain's largest retailer, are moving toward American-style mega-grants.

Some companies, including SmithKline Beecham PLC, the drug concern with major operations in London and Philadelphia, and Four Seasons Hotels and Hilton International, a unit of Ladbrokes Group PLC, the multinational lodging companies, have made all or parts of their compensation packages identical regardless of where an executive is stationed.

Compensation experts call such plans "global pay." Translation: pay on an American scale.

These experts say global pay eliminates internal tensions that arise when, say, the home office executives in Brussels or Osaka make less than their subordinates in Chicago or Los Angeles. The disparity in pay between American companies and the rest of the world came into sharp focus in May, when Daimler agreed to acquire Chrysler Corp., whose No. 2 executive made more last year from salary, bonus and cashing-in options than the top 10 Daimler executives combined.

Both Daimler and Chrysler have told share-

holders that the new DaimlerChrysler will have separate pay plans for executives in Stuttgart and in Detroit, an indication that it does not plan to quickly equalize pay. But Daimler is also planning to ask shareholders to approve a new equity pay plan, a spokesman for Daimler said.

ROBERT EATON, the No. 2 Chrysler executive, predicted that German and American executives at DaimlerChrysler would someday be paid similarly. "We have to be competitive," he said.

The trend toward raising the compensation of executives at multinational companies to the levels in the United States has encountered all sorts of opposition — even from the very executives who stand to benefit from it. Alan Johnson, a compensation consultant in New York, said many European and Asian executives he has worked with showed an obvious distaste for huge options payouts.

"I have been surprised that it is not just a legal, wake-up-and-smell-the-money issue," Mr. Johnson said, "but it is deeply rooted in their culture and views that you just don't seek unlimited money."

Mr. Johnson predicted that like Daimler, "most companies will change in baby steps." He added, "It will take a decade or so to get like the U.S."

Europe's high income-tax rates can make such perks as cars, chauffeurs, gardeners and lifelong health benefits as big a draw as options. And European tax laws discourage companies from making bountiful options awards by treating them as a cost on the corporate balance sheet rather than as a deduction on their taxes. As a result, European stock-incentive plans are often watered-down versions of their American counterparts.

■ French Broadcaster Offers Options

Canal Plus SA's board offered its management stock options at a 40 percent premium to the share price as an incentive to return the biggest European pay television company to profit, Bloomberg News reported from Paris.

Jean-Marie Messier, chief executive of Vivendi SA, the company that became Canal Plus's biggest shareholder this year, told an investors' seminar in Paris Thursday that the board approved the plan at its last meeting.

Mr. Messier is stepping up pressure on Canal Plus's management to improve results.

Canal Plus, the pioneer of pay-television in France and the first company to launch digital satellite television in Europe, predicted in March a loss of about 600 million French francs (\$102 million) for this year.

U.S. Says It Didn't Know Sudan Plant Made Drugs

By Tim Weiner
and Steven Lee Myers
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — When the United States launched cruise missiles against a factory in Sudan on Aug. 20, it was unaware that the plant made medicines, according to Defense Secretary William Cohen.

But he insisted that the incomplete intelligence was irrelevant to President Bill Clinton's decision to destroy the plant. He said the attack was justified by information showing that the plant made EMPTA, a key ingredient for VX, a nerve agent, and might be linked to Osama bin Laden, the Saudi millionaire suspected of ordering the bombing of the U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania.

The financial connection between the plant and Mr. bin Laden was at most "indirect," Mr. Cohen said Wednesday, modifying his assertion on the night of the attack that Mr. bin Laden had a direct link to it. Mr. Cohen also said the United States did not learn until several days after the attack on the plant that it made medicine.

Criticizing the attack, the Sudanese ambassador to the United States said Wednesday that it showed Washington's "Wild West" shoot first, boys, and ask questions later philosophy.

In a meeting with senators Wednesday, the Central Intelligence Agency again asserted that its discovery of EMPTA near the factory was proof that the plant could be used by terrorists.

The CIA sent an agent to the plant, and that agent took a soil sample from inside the plant's gates, a few yards from the building, officials said. The soil contained more than twice the level of EMPTA that would be considered a trace, the director of central intelligence, George Tenet, told senators Wednesday.

The United States insists there is no reason for EMPTA to be found in a pharmaceutical plant. Others, however, say it could be confused with pesticides that have similar characteristics. The international body that seeks to eliminate chemical weapons says that theoretically there are other uses for EMPTA, though it does not know of any commercial products using it.

The Sudanese ambassador to the United States, Madhi Ibrahim Mohammed, insisted that the plant was not part of an Iraqi-backed effort to make weapons for Mr. bin Laden.

"This plant was not manufacturing chemical weapons for terrorists," he said in a speech at the National Press Club. "It was engaged in manufacturing human and veterinary medicine, and was an approved supplier of export medicine under the UN's food-for-oil program. The UN licensed the Sudan to send medicine under that program, under the supervision of the UN, to Iraq."

U.S. officials said Wednesday that the United Nations contract, awarded in December, had never been fulfilled.

The ambassador said his nation would have helped root out suspected terrorist operations if Americans had asked.

He met on Tuesday with Susan Rice, assistant secretary of state for African affairs. She told him the attack was "not against the Sudanese people, and not against the Sudanese government, but against a facility where we had very credible evidence that this chemical was being produced," an American official who was at the meeting said.

Pioneer in Battling AIDS Victim of Swissair Crash

The Associated Press

GENEVA — Dr. Jonathan Mann, 51, a pioneer in the fight against AIDS, was among the 229 people killed in the Swissair crash off Nova Scotia, a spokesman for the World Health Organization said Thursday.

Dr. Mann's wife, Mary Lou Clements-Mann, also 51, the head of the center for immunization research at John Hopkins University School of Hygiene and Public Health in Baltimore, was also killed.

Dr. Mann, the outspoken head of the United Nations' global AIDS program during the 1980s, resigned in 1990 after a bitter disagreement with Hiroshi Nakajima, then director-general of the World Health Organization.

Dr. Mann was most recently dean of the School of Public Health of Allegheny University of the Health Sciences in Philadelphia.

Dr. Mann resigned in December from



Dr. Jonathan Mann and his wife were among those killed in the crash.

graduation in New Mexico for the Centers for Disease Control. He switched to the state's public health department, where he stayed for 10 years.

After that, Dr. Mann accepted an offer to spend a year in Zaire setting up an AIDS research facility under the auspices of the World Health Organization.

He died in a plane crash in 1989.

Israeli Public Workers Strike

Reuters

JERUSALEM — Government offices, the phone and electric companies, ports and schools throughout Israel were shut Thursday as 300,000 public sector workers began a strike for pay increases.

Finance Minister Yaacov Neeman warned that the action could destabilize the economy at a time when it was vulnerable to turmoil from world financial markets.

The Histadrut labor federation called the open-ended strike after talks with the Treasury over its demand for an 8 percent raise broke off Thursday morning.

Unions said the strike targets included state-owned Bezeq Israel Telecom, Israel Electric Co., government offices, courts, and the port authority.

Ben-Gurion International Airport near Tel Aviv, banks and the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange were excluded from the stoppage, which began at 6 A.M. Teachers have been on strike since Tuesday in a separate wage dispute.

Mr. Neeman called on union leaders

U.S. Says It Didn't Know Sudan Plant Made Drugs

By John F. Harris
and Susan Schmidt
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — President Bill Clinton told prosecutors that he tried to help Monica Lewinsky in January in his efforts to find a private-sector job and asked a senior White House aide whether he would be willing to write her a favorable job recommendation, according to sources familiar with his grand jury testimony last month.

Mr. Clinton, sources said, asked John Hiley, then serving as the White House legislative liaison, whether Mr. Hiley could recommend the former intern for a job. But sources supportive of the president's defense described this exchange as innocuous, since Mr. Clinton never instructed Mr. Hiley to write a recommendation, and none was apparently ever written.

Mr. Clinton's offer on behalf of Ms. Lewinsky, with whom he has acknowledged having an extramar-

ital relationship, came at the same time that lawyers for Paula Jones had issued a subpoena seeking Ms. Lewinsky's testimony in Mrs. Jones's sexual harassment suit against the president.

After receiving a private job offer in New York, Ms. Lewinsky signed an affidavit swearing she had no sexual relationship with the president. The independent counsel Kenneth Starr is exploring whether Mr. Clinton obstructed justice by allegedly seeking to win Ms. Lewinsky's silence about their relationship.

January was only the latest time Mr. Clinton had taken a personal interest in Ms. Lewinsky's job prospects, Mr. Clinton acknowledged in his Aug. 17 grand jury testimony.

In the summer of 1997, he talked to the White House deputy personnel director, Marcia Scott, about Ms. Lewinsky's desire to return to the White House after her involuntary reassignment to the Pentagon the

year before. Senior White House officials have told the grand jury that they wanted Ms. Lewinsky out of the White House because they believed she was spending too much time around the president but claimed they did not know she was in an intimate relationship with him.

Mr. Clinton, sources said, discussed with Ms. Lewinsky her anger about being transferred and later asked Ms. Scott if there was a position for her back at the White House. But sources said Mr. Clinton issued no instructions to Ms. Scott and suggested she find something for Ms. Lewinsky only if it was "appropriate."

In the end, sources said, Ms. Scott did not offer Ms. Lewinsky a job and assured her that her public affairs job at the Pentagon was far from a demotion or black mark on her record.

The disclosures about Mr. Clinton's testimony represent the first acknowledgment that he played a

direct role in her job searches. In the Paula Jones case, he said he was aware that his secretary, Betty Currie, was helping Ms. Lewinsky look for work but acknowledged nothing about his own role.

Allies of the president said that the job offers by Mr. Clinton in the summer of 1997 show that he was not motivated by a desire to stop her from cooperating in the Jones suit, since at that point no subpoenas had been issued in the case.

Also, they said, neither that intervention nor the one in January yielded any results, either in the form of recommendations or a job — hardly an example of a president using all the influence at his command to win special treatment for a potential witness against him.

This argument about facts and their meaning — whether certain actions by Mr. Clinton and others in the case were sinister or benign — has been a recurring theme of recent weeks, and it is only going to accelerate in coming days.

White House lawyers and political advisers have been busy devising a response to what they anticipate will be Mr. Starr's contention that Mr. Clinton's actions constituted obstruction of justice.

Mr. Starr, for instance, has pressed witnesses about why Ms. Lewinsky returned gifts that Mr. Clinton had given her to Mrs. Currie when they were subpoenaed; Clinton allies say her return of gifts is insignificant, since Mr. Clinton gave her more gifts at about the same time.

Once allegations about Mr. Clinton's relationship with Ms. Lewinsky exploded into public view in January, a Clinton friend, Vernon Jordan, acknowledged that he had kept Mr. Clinton apprised of his own efforts to help her get a New York private-sector job.

The job offer he helped arrange, with Revlon Inc., came days before she gave her affidavit in the Jones case, but it was rescinded after the controversy broke.



An overturned truck in Alligator Point, Florida, showing the power of the storm.

Hurricane Batters Florida

Reuters

TALLAHASSEE, Florida — The hurricane designated Earl raged across the southeastern United States on Thursday, generating 80-mile-an-hour winds, driving rains and a pounding surf that flooded coastal towns on the Florida panhandle.

It was the second hurricane to strike the U.S. southeast coast in eight days, and it pushed a wall of water from the Gulf of Mexico into low-lying barrier islands and villages along Florida's Big Bend. Then it moved inland, where it dumped rain on four states and spawned tornadoes.

The U.S. Coast Guard said two men were missing after two fishing vessels capsized south of Panama City, near where the hurricane went ashore.

Governor Lawton Chiles of Florida declared a disaster area across the Gulf coast,

ordering state offices in at least 15 counties closed on Thursday as crews moved into the streets to clean up and restore power to thousands of homes.

"It's going to be the kind of damage you would expect — storm surges, flooding and widespread power outages," said Barbara Doran, a spokeswoman for the state's Office of Emergency Management.

At least 15,000 people were without power on the Gulf coast, and a tornado spawned by the hurricane damaged 11 homes and 6 businesses in Brevard County, on Florida's east coast, emergency managers said. The storm dumped heavy rain on Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina.

Residents who evacuated low-lying areas and barrier islands waited until dawn before trying to return to their homes.

At least three times, At-

Drug to Cut Breast Cancer Risk Backed

By Susan Okie
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — A U.S. government advisory panel has given a qualified endorsement to the first breast cancer prevention drug, recommending that the Food and Drug Administration approve tamoxifen for some women at high risk for developing the disease.

But the expert panel refused to say that the drug "prevents" breast cancer in high-risk women, because no study has yet shown that those who take tamoxifen are ultimately less likely to die of the disease.

"I think doctors and patients should be allowed to decide this issue on an individual basis," said George Sledge, a panel member and professor of medicine at the Indiana Cancer Pavilion. "Having said that, I am tremendously concerned about how it is going to be used."

The Food and Drug Administration is not required to follow the recommendations of its advisory panels, but it usually does.

Earlier this year, a five-year, government-funded study of more than 13,000 women was halted when it found that women at high risk for breast cancer who took tamoxifen had 45 percent fewer cases of breast cancer than similar

women given a placebo. The study raised hopes that a drug could reduce the risk of being stricken with the leading type of cancer among U.S. women.

The study, however, was not large enough or long-lasting enough to detect a difference in mortality. Panel members and speakers at a meeting Wednesday said longer follow-up of women in this and other studies was urgently needed to learn whether tamoxifen prevents tumors or merely slows their growth and delays their appearance.

Consumer activists and some medical experts worried about exposing many women to a powerful drug to prevent cancers that would otherwise strike a small percentage of them. "We are talking about large numbers of healthy women, and there are risks," said Trevor Powles, who headed a smaller British study that failed to find a reduction in breast cancers with tamoxifen use.

Tamoxifen users in the U.S. study had more than twice as many cases of cancer of the endometrium (the lining of the uterus) as women given a placebo, and an increased risk of serious blood clots in the legs and lungs. They also developed

more cataracts. But they suffered fewer fractures than placebo users. There was no significant difference in heart attacks or strokes, nor in overall mortality.

Although women on tamoxifen showed a striking reduction in breast cancers, the study used a complex formula to decide which women had a high enough risk of breast cancer to justify taking the drug. All women age 60 or older were considered high risk on the basis of age. Women between 35 and 60 were considered high risk if they had various combinations of risk factors, such as close relatives with breast cancer, early onset of first menstruation, or a history of various breast abnormalities.

Jerry Lewis, senior medical director of Zeneca Pharmaceuticals, an American unit of Zeneca Group PLC of Britain that markets tamoxifen under the brand name Nolvadex, hailed the panel's decision. "It is the first time this advisory committee has gathered to deliberate and vote on a drug for breast cancer prevention," Mr. Lewis said.

Zeneca representatives said the company planned to develop materials to help doctors and women decide who should take the drug. But consumer advocates predicted that once the drug was approved, it was likely to be aggressively marketed to consumers.

Away From Politics

• Two pilots whose jetliners were eight seconds from a collision averted disaster by veering sharply about 60 miles east of San Diego, said federal authorities, blaming a lapse by a busy air traffic controller. Delta Air Lines Flight 257 and Alaska Airlines Flight 250 came as close as 1/6 miles. (AP)

• A man who said he fatally stabbed his former wife to protect her from aliens pleaded guilty in Elizabeth, New Jersey, to manslaughter, meaning he could face 40 years in prison. (AP)

• Strippers performed for males in full view of women workers on the trading floor of a Wall Street brokerage firm, the New York state attorney general charged, filing a \$10 million lawsuit against Garban LLC. The lawsuit against Garban also made it difficult for women employees to advance. (AP)

Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — The number of federal agencies making inadequate progress on resolving Year 2000 computer problems has grown by one, to seven, and new estimates peg the cost of the government-wide repair job at almost \$5.4 billion, Clinton administration officials announced.

In an Office of Management and Budget report scheduled for release Thursday, the State Department becomes the latest addition to a White House list of agencies that face exceptional troubles in fixing computer systems so they will recognize the new century and function properly on Jan. 1, 2000.

Vice President Al Gore met Wednesday with officials from the seven troubled agencies and left little doubt

that the repair job should be their No. 1 management concern, participants said.

Besides the State Department, the agencies are the departments of Defense, Education, Energy, Health and Human Services, and Transportation and the Agency for International Development.

"The vice president's tone was serious and direct," an official at the meeting said. "There was no mistaking his intentions."

Mr. Gore, who has cast himself as a champion of high technology and probably will be campaigning for president in 2000, told the agencies to report back to him in mid-October.

If they continue to face obstacles in this area, Mr. Gore indicated that he would use his political muscle to help push them aside, the official said.

Not Ready for Year 2000

7 U.S. Agencies Lagging on Computer Problems

THE AMERICAS

POLITICAL NOTES

Welfare Fathers Get a Push

WASHINGTON — They are young, poor and hard beyond their years, with resumes that often list jails, not jobs. Their earnings have spent decades in decline, and so has their likelihood to marry. Yet, there is a growing sense that the nation's ambitious welfare overhaul cannot succeed without them.

With tough new rules now in place for welfare mothers, the spotlight is turning to welfare fathers. Dozens of programs have sprung up in the last few years, seeking to raise the incomes of these missing men and strengthen their ties to their children. Although few can yet show clear success, the effort has suddenly found a wellspring of government and philanthropic support.

Nearly all the states given lucrative federal welfare-to-work grants this year have pledged to include fathers in their programs. The Ford Foundation, which virtually created the welfare-to-work field two decades ago, is seeding a parallel industry to run programs for men and study them. And most surprisingly, some congressional Republicans have proposed a multibillion-dollar program for poor, unwed fathers — scarcely a Republican constituency.

To glimpse the odd politics, consider the journey of Representative Clay Shaw Jr., the Florida Republican who was the main author of the 1996 welfare law. That law made unprecedented spending cuts and expressed a profound unease with activist government. Now, Mr. Shaw is pushing a "Fathers Count" bill that would spend \$2 billion on the kind of men who gather on street corners with half-smoked cigarettes behind their ears.

Community groups would use the money to provide fathers with job training and parenting advice and encourage them to marry.

"If you're going to solve the problem of poverty, you've got to do what you can to make these guys marriage material," Mr. Shaw said. "So many of them — I would say the majority of them — are men these women wouldn't want to marry. And I don't blame them. They don't have jobs."

15,000th Vote for Thurmond

WASHINGTON — Temporarily halting consideration of the federal budget, the Senate honored Armed Services Committee chairman Strom Thurmond, Republican of South Carolina, for becoming the seventh senator in history to vote 15,000 times.

It was a procedural vote on an appropriations bill that prompted Mr. Thurmond to reach the milestone Wednesday. Senator Robert Byrd, Democrat of West Virginia, who is about 140 votes ahead of Mr. Thurmond, achieved the 15,000 mark in May.

Having arrived in the Senate when some of his colleagues were still in grade school, Mr. Thurmond, at 95 the oldest senator ever to serve, won praise from political friends and foes alike.

"I would like to thank Strom Thurmond, not always for his stands on issues, but for the way he treats people," said Senator Paul Wellstone, Democrat of Minnesota, a liberal who rarely sides with the conservative Mr. Thurmond. (LAT)

AMERICAN TOPICS

Alternative Medicine Edges Toward the Mainstream

If anyone doubted that alternative medicine had become big, big medicine, consider the following: The number of homeopaths has risen to 3,000 this year from 200 in 1970. The number of massage schools has soared to 800 today from 15 in 1969. Sales of herbal supplements are up sharply, rising in just three years to \$3.65 billion last year from \$2.09 billion in 1994.

One part of the counterculture, alternative medicine is now an \$18 billion industry. But even as it edges toward the mainstream, much alternative medicine remains experimental and unproven. There are "healers" who prescribe herbal tinctures based on ancient potions, and there are high-tech pressurized oxygen chambers. Herbal supplements are hugely popular, though they, like much that is alternative, are unregulated by the government.

Students may be more wired than ever, carrying laptop computers and chattering over the Internet; but they appear slow to plug into well-paying careers in information technology, according to a survey. Only 3 percent of high school graduates who took the ACT assessment test picked computer and information science as likely vocations, the testing service announced.

When the Los Angeles Times commissioned tests of 10 brands of St. John's-wort, which is said to relieve depression, eight of them contained less than 75 percent of their advertised potency. Estimated sales of the drug will hit \$400 million this year.

The medical establishment has gradually embraced some offshoots of the alternative movement, such as acupuncture, yet others are seen as worthless or even dangerous. The paradox, historians say, is that alternative medicine is blooming at the end of a century in which mainstream, scientific medicine has helped vastly extend life expectancy. Yet because people do live longer, they face more chronic, debilitating disorders — and look for alternative solutions.

Short Takes

Students may be more wired than ever, carrying laptop computers and chattering over the Internet; but they appear slow to plug into well-paying careers in information technology, according to a survey. Only 3 percent of high school graduates who took the ACT assessment test picked computer and information science as likely vocations, the testing service announced.

Brian Knowlton

critic got worse and spread under the IMF's loan program, which was agreed to on July 20.

"The IMF seems to expect that Moscow will come to its senses and embrace real economic reform without being forced to do so by its lender," the Georgia Republican wrote.

"If this is indeed what occurred," he continued, "it raises crucial questions that need to be fully and satisfactorily answered before any more American taxpayers' dollars are committed to the IMF."

At the Clinton administration's urging, the IMF in July arranged a \$22.6 billion package of new loans for Russia, aimed at ending the country's crippling economic crisis.

Despite the cash infusion, market confidence evaporated. Russian stocks and the ruble crumbled, sending shock waves through global financial markets and fueling fears that Russia's troubles would unleash a global economic downturn.

Mr. Gingrich said troubles on world markets "go to the heart of concerns over the performance of the IMF and its impact on the world economy."

His letter to Mr. Rubin made no mention of when the House might vote on IMF

funding, despite past promises that a vote would be held before the end of this congressional session.

Congress has targeted Oct. 9 to adjourn before the midterm elections in November.

The House Appropriations Committee was expected to vote on IMF funding next week, but that bill contained only \$3.4 billion for the lending agency, a fraction of the money the White House says it needed.

Monday

HEALTH/SCIENCE

With a wide range of topics from technology to space exploration, from recent medical discoveries to how the human brain functions, this in-depth feature brings up-to-date information on scientific and physical developments in the intriguing worlds of health and science.

Every Monday in the International Herald Tribune.

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PUBLISHED WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON POST
THE WORLD'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

ASIA/PACIFIC

Malaysian Reformer Hits Back After Ouster From Cabinet

By Thomas Fuller
International Herald Tribune

KUALA LUMPUR — Prime Minister Mahathir bin Mohamad personally took control of the economy early Friday, expelling his former deputy from the country's ruling political party and naming himself acting finance minister.

Anwar Ibrahim, who on Wednesday was dismissed by Mr. Mahathir as deputy prime minister and finance minister, was expelled from the party, the United Malays National Organization, on the grounds of "unsuitable character," party officials said.

Outside the party meeting, which lasted four hours, about 1,000 demonstrators chanted "Long live Anwar!" Mr. Anwar, who until this week was the second highest ranking politician in the country, must now wait three years before he can reapply to join the party.

On Thursday, Mr. Anwar delivered an impassioned plea for his reinstatement.

"I ask for justice and I demand justice," he said at his home here. "If the No. 2 man in this country cannot be satisfied that justice will prevail, I am sorry for Malaysia."

Mr. Anwar's ouster came after a yearlong power struggle between Malaysia's two top

leaders, including disputes over the direction of economic policy.

"The U.S. Treasury secretary, Robert Rubin, said Thursday that Mr. Mahathir's moves were 'of concern,'" Bloomberg News reported.

[...] Obviously it is not the path that we think leads itself to economic growth and stability over time," Mr. Rubin said.]

There has been speculation that Mr. Anwar could be arrested after an affidavit was filed by the attorney general with the country's High Court on Thursday.

The affidavit included allegations that Mr. Anwar had received money illegally from a friend and supporters during Malaysia's last general election and that he was "used by undesirable elements to threaten national security," according to the country's national press agency, Bernama.

The agency did not elaborate on those allegations, but focused more on charges that Mr. Anwar had "homosexual relationships, sexual liaisons with women of various races and tried to entice people's wives." It went on to detail at least seven alleged incidents of sexual indiscretion, including one "male witness" who said he was "sodomized 15 times by Anwar."

Mr. Anwar emphatically denied the allegations. "This is part of a larger political conspiracy," he

said. "There is no basis in the allegations."

Whether true or not, newspapers and television stations — always under close watch by the government — are likely to give prominence to the story, perhaps ruining Mr. Anwar's career and sapping the support of his Muslim constituents.

Saying he was skeptical but hopeful, Mr. Anwar asked the media "to give at least an opportunity to me to explain and defend my case."

Mr. Anwar's ouster comes just days after Malaysia started what has been described as a radical economic experiment. The country has set a fixed exchange rate for its currency, the ringgit, and has banned any trading of it on international markets.

These moves are in sharp contrast to the rescue efforts in place in neighboring countries, such as Indonesia and Thailand, both of which have signed on with the International Monetary Fund to help them out of the regional economic crisis.

Led by Mr. Anwar, Malaysia had pursued similar policies to those now in place in Indonesia and Thailand: Credit was kept tight and austerity measures put in place. But earlier this

year, Mr. Mahathir led a campaign to ease interest rates and stimulate the economy through injections of cash.

Mr. Anwar initially opposed the pressure to lower interest rates, but eventually came around to Mr. Mahathir's position.

Before his expulsion from the party, Mr. Anwar said he remained loyal to him. "I do regard him in all sincerity as a father — although not all fathers treat their children very fairly," Mr. Anwar said.

But the former deputy prime minister said he regretted that the "instruments of government" had been used to "harass" him.

With Mr. Anwar's removal, Mr. Mahathir, who is widely respected and admired in Malaysia for having brought prosperity to the country, has consolidated his position in government and taken full control of economic policy.

In the last few months, editors at two top newspapers and officials at the country's central bank — all allies of Mr. Anwar — have resigned or been dismissed. Earlier this year, a close friend of Mr. Mahathir's, Daim Zainuddin, was brought into the cabinet to act as economic czar, undercutting Mr. Anwar's role as finance minister.

On Thursday, Mr. Anwar urged his supporters to stay calm.



David Longstreth

Mr. Anwar, left, with Mr. Mahathir at a ceremony in Kuala Lumpur in June.

"I have urged my friends and supporters to remain calm and respect the law," he said. "even if they choose to arrest me and charge me for whatever crimes that I'm alleged to have committed."

BRIEFLY

Producer for CBS Detained in China

BEIJING — Chinese authorities refused to disclose the whereabouts of a CBS television producer on Thursday who was ousted from bed, handcuffed and taken from her Beijing apartment by four state security agents on Wednesday.

Natalie Liu, a Chinese citizen who is a permanent resident of the United States, had been working as a freelance associate producer for the American network CBS in Beijing for a year.

Chinese security authorities declined to say why Ms. Liu was being detained. According to a relative, when she was being arrested she asked the agents why, and she was told there was "no use asking." When she asked how long she was going to be held, the police said it depended on her attitude in answering their questions, the relative said.

Most recently, Ms. Liu was working on a light feature about the opera "Turandot" being staged in Beijing. She played an important role in CBS News' coverage of President Bill Clinton's visit to China in June.

Burmese Students End Their Rallies

RANGOON — Thousands of students dispersed early Thursday after staging the biggest demonstrations against the Burmese junta in nearly two years.

Foreign diplomats said Wednesday's demonstrations at two Rangoon university campuses ended without incident but that scores of riot policemen remained on alert.

"It's obviously building up again," said one Western diplomat. "There is tension there, and it will only take a small spark to set it all off again."

As many as 4,000 students joined the demonstrations, which came after the opposition National League for Democracy said it would convene the parliament that was elected in 1990 but that the army has never allowed to sit.

(APF)

For the Record

Taiwan's top official on relations with China has accepted an invitation to visit Beijing next month. Koo Chen-fu, the chairman of the Straits Exchange Foundation, said Thursday that he would resume talks that have been suspended since 1995. He said he expected to meet with his counterpart, Wang Daohan, the chairman of the Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Strait. (Reuters)

Provocateurs Blamed In Indonesian Rioting

LHOKSEUMAUWE, INDONESIA — Thousands of soldiers kept a tight grip on this town in Aceh Province on Thursday, two days after riots that local people said was instigated by outsiders.

Major roads in the city remained blocked by security forces on Thursday, but some shops reopened. There was no sign of renewed unrest.

Lieutenant Colonel Iskandar, the police commander for North Aceh, said: "A hundred high school students have been detained for questioning. The students said they were asked by unknown men to riot."

One student said that several men were waiting at his school when classes ended on Monday and induced students to riot. "The men told us to riot and threatened to beat us if we refused, so we went along," he said. "There were trucks waiting for us outside our school to transport us to the city center."

A resident said he saw a man handing out money on Tuesday night to five students in the center of the town.

"The riots were not started by the locals," another resident said. "We did not recognize many of the people who were rioting in the city."

The official Antara news agency reported that scores of students who looted and damaged shops were seen climbing down from trucks.

The rioting erupted after a departure ceremony for combat soldiers who were being withdrawn.

Some critics of the army have speculated that the army might have instigated the rioting as a pretext to remain deployed in the province. The withdrawal would have marked an end to a nine-year campaign against separatists.



Mohamad (Bob) Hasan (center), a close friend of former President Suharto of Indonesia, being jostled by reporters Thursday in Jakarta after he was questioned about suspected banking irregularities.

Floods Make China Face Bitter Choices

By Erik Eckholm
New York Times Service

RONGCHENG, CHINA — Xiao Renbai, director of this beleaguered town along the overflowing Yangtze River, stood before an encampment of blue tents inhabited by 800 sorry-looking people who weeks before were told to flee for their lives.

"We protected our dikes for more than 40 days," Mr. Xiao said. "But on the orders of the provincial government, on Aug. 5 we opened the embankment in order to save the city of Wuhan."

Nobody drowned when an earthen dike that held back the swelling river was blasted with dynamite, engulfing the homes of 13,000 people in this one incident. But many people, including Yang Luozhi, her husband, their four children and two grandparents, were left with nothing but the clothes on their backs. They had just two hours' warning, Miss Yang said, before they were carried away by boat through the rising waters.

This stretch of Hubei Province has

suffered some of the worst damage of the summer's floods. Of Jianli County's 1.4 million residents, 100,000 saw their homes and nearly all their belongings destroyed.

Thousands, less lucky than Miss Yang, are now crowded into makeshift huts atop the remaining dikes, where they subsist on rations of a half-kilogram (1.1 pounds) of rice and 12 cents a day per person and for drinking must boil the filthy flood water.

And yet in this county, as along much of the Yangtze this summer, the raging river did not by its own power breach a single dike — neither the major dikes, huge earthen mounds that line the Yangtze flood plain, often several kilometers apart, nor the minor dikes jutting into the flood plain to shield farmland reclaimed from mud and marshes.

All the damage in Jianli County resulted from government decisions to spread the swelling waters by breaching inner dikes to relieve pressure on the vital main dikes and the provincial capital of Wuhan downstream.

These were not decisions made lightly by authorities in Wuhan, a city of 7 million. But neither were they accepted readily by villagers who lay in the path of the flood diversion. Some tried to block the inundation of their land with an all-night vigil on the dike, while many others had to be forced from their homes, according to local news accounts and other sources.

Events in Jianli are emblematic of China's worsening bind as more people crowd into the country's fertile river

valleys. To prevent a repetition of this year's costly disasters, officials now realize, the country must spend billions of dollars it does not have to reinforce dikes, and move millions of farmers who have nowhere else to go out of the low-lying areas that can serve as safety valves for excess waters.

In the meantime, officials will periodically face terrible choices, weighing the value of homes and farms in one place against the risk of catastrophe elsewhere.

In his exhortations this summer, President Jiang Zemin laid out the priorities: first, protect the river's main dikes; second, protect major cities; third, protect human lives.

In Jianli County, 17 zones in the flood plain had over the decades been drained, surrounded by dikes and filled with farms, villages, even factories. Since early August, 16 of those areas have been intentionally flooded.

Among the newly homeless here, there is a mood of sullen resignation, if not anger.

"It felt just terrible when they told us we had to leave," said a mother of two in a shaky lean-to of boards and plastic sheeting atop the major dike, who gave her name as Miss Song. "It didn't seem fair."

A noncommissioned officer from a military unit in the area, a Sergeant Chen, said a large part of his unit's job had involved "mobilizing people to leave areas that were about to be inundated."

"Many people were mentally unprepared to leave," he said.

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Tchotchkes
2 Theatrical
3 "Tenth Muse"
4 War's mount, in the
Apocalypse
5 Bright northern
star
19 "Give —
break!"
20 Cultural prose
and poetry
22 Words to
messeuses
23 Bugbear
25 Doubtful might

26 "Me too"
response
27 Caused
28 Some Caltech
grads
30 Follow the
ruler
31 Hero/poet of
Gaelic legend
33 Quiet spots
35 Open-fronted
jacket
37 Like some
church matters
38 Accumulated
42 "You —"
46 "Reverent of
Fortune" star
47 Antiprobation

49 Slave's
response
50 Handie
51 Movie princess
52 Mass booklet
53 Bug
54 Sticker
57 "Awesomes."
58 — of
Langenhans
(parasitic
parts)
60 Bulldog's quality
62 Person with a
cause
63 Registered
64 Laurel and
Hardy, e.g.
65 Recent delivery

66 Star Trek alien
67 Jefferson and
Voltaire, for two

68 Comest for El
Cordobas

69 Language
spoken in
Somaloway

70 "Irate" —
71 "Swayerwords"
72 Takes
73 Antes
74 Sleds
75 Hasn't

76 "Clergyman's
clothing"
77 Handie

78 "Smileon
11 If you care
what you

12 Snub
13 Devout petitions
15 Feast of Lots
16 Bonfire
21 Matching frame,
in photography

24 Saute
25 (Lion's capital)

26 Dynamic
beginning?"
28 "Bellefleur
author"

30 "Anitra's Dance"
composer

34 Restaurant
pickup

36 Star post
38 Moxologist's
concoction

39 World's fourth-
largest inland
body of water

40 Star-Trek alien
41 Jefferson and
Voltaire, for two

43 Comest for El
Cordobas

44 Scrapped

45 Pan-relieving
46 Attend, as a
movie

51 Leans

54 Plains Indian

55 1953 Pulitzer
winner for
Drama

56 Prex with
second

59 Bush or Tali

61 The 1900's, e.g.
Abbr.

DOWN

1 Organ effect

2 Copilot

3 Bouncer's
requests

4 Lady Byng
Trophy org.

5 Leader of the
Gang of
70s & 80s music

6 Language
spoken in
Somaloway

7 Afican scourge
8 Cousin of the
needlefish

9 1953 Pulitzer
winner for
Drama

10 Prex with
second

11 Bush or Tali

12 The 1900's, e.g.
Abbr.

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every Wednesday
in The Intermarket

EUROPE

Kohl-Schroeder Face-Off Fails to Ignite Campaign

By John Vinocur
International Herald Tribune

No Great Debate, the single under-one-roof confrontation of Germany's election campaign, turned out Thursday more like heavily padded sparring than mortal combat, the politics of gesture and ritual an easy winner over ideas or surprise.

Neither Chancellor Helmut Kohl or his Social Democratic challenger, Gerhard Schroeder, struck anything like a blow that could turn the course of the NEWS vote on Sept. 27.

ANALYSIS There were no scratches either, nothing in the roughly two and a half hours of talk on the floor of the Bundestag that seemed likely to fester over the last three weeks of the campaign.

Since Mr. Kohl, 68, did not want to go into a studio to debate Mr. Schroeder, 54, a master of television's demands on sweat glands and pre-stirred formulations, the closest the candidates could come to a face-to-face meeting was an arrangement to speak one after another in a regularly scheduled morning parliamentary session broadcast throughout Europe.

But for suspense or passion or

elevated content — the Bundestag's assembled members brayed mildly and roared not at all — this was not the day. In a house where democracy sometimes gets a jarringly ride, the subject could have been water rates or insurance law.

What emerged instead was an attempt by the chancellor, clearly trailing Mr. Schroeder in the polls,

to characterize himself as Germany's locus of wisdom and good sense in a world with accelerating troubles nearby, in Russia, and beyond. Mr. Schroeder and his potential cabinet allies, Oskar Lafontaine, the hard-left SPD party chairman, and Joschka Fischer, the leader of the Greens, have spoken

with his old ideas, representing Germany at the United Nations, the chancellor asked. And now, he said, Mr. Lafontaine had shamefully spoken in recent days of taking a "German path" in external policy, enough, Mr. Kohl suggested, to terrify the country's neighbors.

Yet, Mr. Schroeder got off easy.

In interviews, Mr. Kohl has spoken

everybody who heard it realized you have trouble with the present. If you have trouble with the present you do with the future as well. You are not capable for the future, Mr. Chancellor."

This was the strongest stuff of the exchange, and by the standard of sound bites, where Mr. Schroeder excels, was probably the element that could make it seem he prevailed. "You've lost yourself in the past," he said again, picking up the theme. "You're not able to bring the creative forces of this country together" for the new millennium.

With the exception of the direct form of address to the chancellor, listeners heard essentially re-worked material from Mr. Schroeder's campaign repertoire. It had neither steam enough to visibly irritate Mr. Kohl's Christian Democrats or amuse the challenger's own supporters on Parliament's floor. The chancellor interrupted Mr. Schroeder once on a technical point concerning wage policy, but he hardly stirred when the challenger questioned his wisdom concerning "his sanna friend Yeltsin."

Both men seemed to do their best to stay at a distance from the question of unemployment, currently running at about 10 percent, and the issue that the polls have shown is the essential one in the minds of the electorate.

to stay at a distance from the question of unemployment, currently running at about 10 percent, and the issue that the polls have shown is the essential one in the minds of the electorate.

Mr. Kohl's treatment of the subject, perhaps mindful of the OECD's projection that German joblessness would barely improve in the next five years, was minimalist. There was a clear positive trend with the number of unemployed soon to fall under 4 million, he said. The former East Germany, where the job market has imploded, was now moving ahead step by step.

Mr. Schroeder said later that there were three times as many people out of work now than when Mr. Kohl first took office, but, characteristically, he had no detailed plans about how or when the situation would be corrected under his leadership. Indeed, as has been the pattern of his campaign, Mr. Schroeder rarely dealt with specifics.

But he did get the last word. He called on Mr. Kohl to agree to real debate, presumably a more lively one.

"Come out of the past," he urged Mr. Kohl, "and let's quietly discuss things so that the people of Germany can decide."



Chancellor Kohl phoning while Mr. Schroeder spoke.

'Procedural' Progress in Kosovo Talks

By R. Jeffrey Smith
Washington Post Service

ROME — The top U.S. negotiator for Kosovo matters has won agreement from the Yugoslav president and the province's ethnic Albanian political leader to postpone discussion of the long-term legal status of Kosovo, essentially bypassing the issue that most sharply divided the two politicians.

The negotiator, Christopher Hill, the U.S. ambassador to Macedonia, said he won support for the idea from Ibrahim Rugova, the head of Kosovo's largest ethnic Albanian party, at a meeting Wednesday in Pristina, capital of the province in Serbia, Yugoslavia's largest republic. Mr. Rugova is a long-standing advocate of resolving the Kosovo conflict peacefully.

Mr. Hill's meeting with Mr. Rugova came one day after a meeting with the Yugoslav president, Slobodan Milosevic, in Belgrade that produced what Mr. Hill called a "procedural breakthrough," namely, a promise that any immediate deal on Kosovo could be re-examined

and amended in three to five years.

Mr. Hill has been trying to broker a cease-fire and interim solution to the Kosovo conflict for three months without concrete progress. Although the agreement achieved this week is a modest step forward, the parties to the conflict remain bitterly divided on most key issues.

Sources close to the ethnic Albanian guerrillas who have been fighting to win Kosovo's independence and who oppose Mr. Rugova's leadership said Thursday that they thought the plan was a mistake.

Mr. Hill's strategy is to try to negotiate an interim deal allowing a degree of self-rule by the ethnic Albanians, who compose 90 percent of Kosovo's population. But other U.S. officials have expressed skepticism that such a deal would be in the interests of the West, because Mr. Milosevic's behavior suggests he will not respect it and the West will have little leverage to enforce compliance.

Mr. Milosevic stripped the ethnic Albanians of partial autonomy in 1989. Since then, he repeatedly has ruled out

independence for Kosovo. But ethnic Albanians there overwhelmingly say they want only independence, and the dispute has provoked six months of violence, caused the death of hundreds of ethnic Albanians and displaced more than 10 percent of the province's 2 million people.

Under the current U.S. plan, "the aim is to deal with other issues" besides independence, such as laying the groundwork for elections in Kosovo and giving the resulting ethnic Albanian leadership local political autonomy for the first time in a decade, a U.S. official said.

■ Serbs Attack Villages

Serbian forces pounded villages around the historic southern Kosovo town of Prizren on Thursday in a drive to flush out guerrillas, Reuters reported, quoting ethnic Albanian sources.

"Serbian forces are continuing their attack on villages south of the city of Prizren and detonations can be heard by people within the city," said a spokesman for the ethnic Albanian Kosovo Information Center.

Chevenement Falls Into a Coma

PARIS — Jean-Pierre Chevenement, the French interior minister, was in a coma Thursday after suffering a heart attack during surgery, officials said.

The minister, 59, who is in charge of the nation's police and security forces, suffered the heart attack during a gallbladder operation Wednesday.

France Info radio reported that Mr. Chevenement had a rare allergy to the anesthesia used during the surgery, causing temporary heart failure.

The government said the deputy minister for overseas territorial affairs, Jean-Jack Queyranne, would temporarily take over Mr. Chevenement's duties.

(AP)

Danish Party to Review EMU

COPENHAGEN — The largest party in Denmark's coalition government may consider scrapping the country's policy of reserving the right to opt out of European monetary union, paving the way for a referendum on joining the single currency, a senior official said.

The deputy chairman of the Social Democrats, Lene Jensen, said the party was prepared to consider the effects on Denmark of Economic and Monetary Union, signaling a readiness to reconsider Denmark's exemption although she said the party did not foresee any change soon in the Danish position.

Mrs. Jensen said the party would evaluate the effects of the euro on the Danish economy, social welfare system and employment when it is introduced by 11 European Union countries next year. She said she did not see any need to abolish the exemption at the moment.

For the Record

A key suspect in the 1996 murder of Veronica Guerin, an Irish journalist who was investigating drug dealers, was extradited to the Irish Republic from the Netherlands on Thursday. Brian Meehan was extradited on suspicion of having driven the motorcycle from which the killer fired six bullets into Mrs. Guerin's head.

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INTERNATIONAL

Amnesty International Accuses Taliban of Shiite Slaughter*Agence France-Presse*

LONDON — Afghanistan's Taliban forces massacred thousands of members of a religious minority after capturing the city of Mazar-i-Sharif last month, Amnesty International charged Thursday.

The Taliban denied the accusation.

Amnesty said its accusation was based on testimony from people who claimed to have been witnesses. It said the victims were Hazara. The Hazara are Shiites in predominantly Sunni Afghanistan.

Amnesty International said: "Taliban guards deliberately and systematically killed thousands of Hazara civilians during the first three days

following their military takeover" of Mazar-i-Sharif on Aug. 8.

"The victims were killed deliberately and arbitrarily in their homes, in the streets, where the bodies were left for several days, or in locations between Mazar-i-Sharif and Herat. Many of those killed were civilians, including women, children and the elderly, who were shot trying to flee the city."

Amnesty also said that 10 Iranian diplomats and an Iranian journalist "are said to have been killed when Taliban guards entered the Iranian Consulate in Mazar-i-Sharif." Iran has accused the Taliban of detaining the 11 and has demanded their release.

On Thursday, the Taliban released

five other Iranians captured in Mazar-i-Sharif, including three truck drivers.

Taliban officials accused the Iranian truck drivers of transporting military supplies for the Taliban's enemies.

Wakil Ahmed Mutawakkil, a spokesman for the Taliban, was quoted by the Afghan Islamic Press as saying that Amnesty International's accusation was based on falsehoods given out by the Taliban's opponents. "It is against our religion to kill civilians," he was quoted as saying. Mr. Mutawakkil also denied that the Taliban killed any Iranians in Mazar-i-Sharif.

■ War Games Called a Warning

Big Iranian army maneuvers on the

border with Afghanistan are a warning to the Taliban, military analysts were quoted by Reuters in Dubai as saying on Thursday.

The Taliban's forces, though battle-hardened and in control of 90 percent of Afghan territory, would be no match for the 70,000 Iranian soldiers recently deployed in war games only 60 kilometers (about 40 miles) from the border, the analysts said.

Iranian armor, air support and heavy artillery were used to attack mock targets. The war games were the biggest in northeastern Iran in memory — certainly the biggest since Iran's Islamic revolution of 1979.

Iranian newspapers said Thursday

that most of the units deployed in the war games would remain in the border area.

Tensions between Shiite Iran and the Sunni Taliban have heightened since the disappearance of 11 Iranians in Afghanistan.

Terence Taylor, an analyst at the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London, said: "There's a big question as to whether they are still alive, and so things are not going to look good if it comes to light eventually that they have been killed. Things could get nasty along the border."

Taliban officials have described the Iranian war games as threatening and have warned against any escalation of tension along the border.

BRIEFLY

Syrian Trade Center Reopened in Iraq

BAGHDAD — Syria reopened its trade center here Thursday after nearly 18 years, in new sign of growing ties between two uneasy neighbors.

An Iraqi trade center is expected to open soon in the Syrian capital, Damascus, under an agreement signed Thursday. No date was set.

Iraq cut ties with Syria in 1981 because of its support of Iran in the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war. A thaw began after Syria sent a trade delegation to Iraq in May 1997.

On Aug. 20, the two countries agreed to reopen a pipeline for Iraqi crude oil, from Kirkuk in Iraq to a Syrian terminal on the Mediterranean Sea, which was shut 16 years ago.

The reopening first requires formal approval from the UN, which has imposed sanctions on Iraq since 1990, after its invasion of Kuwait.

However, Iraq has said it will not wait for UN permission. (AP)

Mugabe Hints Victory Is Near In Putting Down Congo Uprising*The Associated Press*

DURBAN, South Africa — Zimbabwe, the main military ally of President Laurent Kabila of Congo, all but declared victory Thursday in suppressing an insurrection in Congo, even as the UN secretary-general, Kofi Annan, tried to forge a peace initiative.

Congolese government forces, backed by troops from Zimbabwe, Angola and Namibia, have ousted rebels allegedly supported by Rwanda and Uganda from the capital, Kinshasa, and were knifing eastward into rebel territory in the vast Central African nation.

Rwanda and Uganda deny involvement.

"Had we not intervened," President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe said, the government of Mr. Kabila "would have fallen." He was speaking at a summit meeting of the Nonaligned Movement here. "We have now secured Kinshasa and we're quite certain it cannot fall and that the government cannot fall."

Taking the podium minutes later, President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda complained that foreign troops were propping up a government that "has not been elected." Mr. Kabila led a rebellion last year that overthrew the long-time dictator, Mobutu Sese Seko.

For the first time, Mr. Museveni acknowledged that Ugandan troops were in rebel-held territory in eastern Congo. He did not respond to Mr. Kabila's allegations that Ugandan troops were fighting alongside the rebels.

The talks here have led to a shift in South Africa's position on intervention by Angola, Namibia and Zimbabwe.

Previously, President Nelson Mandela of South Africa had sought to promote diplomacy and negotiations to stop the fighting, but Thursday he said it was "reasonable" for outside countries to give the military aid Mr. Kabila had requested.

Mr. Mugabe said at a news conference that all factions involved in the party planned to meet in three days at an as-yet undetermined site. There was no immediate confirmation from other delegations that they would take part in the talks.

The rebels have been notably absent from any of the talks. Mr. Kabila has ruled out a cease-fire, saying Rwandan and Ugandan troops must first leave Congo.

Mr. Annan said that he was "very encouraged" by the peace talks he had held at the meeting with Mr. Kabila, Mr. Mugabe, President Jose Eduardo dos Santos of Angola and Mr. Mandela. Mr. Annan planned to meet later Thursday with the presidents of Rwanda and Uganda.



A police officer restraining supporters of Mr. Anwar outside a party meeting in Kuala Lumpur on Thursday.

MALAYSIA: Power Shuffle Hides a Battle Over Image Control

Continued from Page 1

Mr. Anwar's efforts at image control have annoyed Mr. Mahathir, something he has hinted at frequently.

Mr. Anwar's liberal, Western-looking image was sometimes in sharp contrast to the man himself — at least as he is known in Malaysia. In his youth, Mr. Anwar was a champion of radical, occasionally anti-Western, Islamic views.

He entered politics as the head of an Islamic youth organization. In 1979, he visited Iran to meet and congratulate Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini on his coming to power. But since his appointment as deputy prime minister in 1995, Mr. Anwar has been portrayed as a liberal thinker and defender of such high-minded notions as civil society and the rebirth of philosophy in Asia.

On Thursday, at a news conference in which Mr. Anwar vowed to rescue his imperiled political career, he conceded that he had perhaps overstepped the line in promoting his views at the expense of Mr. Mahathir's.

Referring to a book of essays he published two years ago titled "The Asian Renaissance," — in which he wrote about such issues as press freedom and democracy, Mr. Anwar said Thursday: "That probably was a mistake. I said too much in that book." Filled with references to sources as diverse as Shakespeare, T.S. Eliot and Adam Smith, the book was said to have been largely written by one of his closest advisers.

But perhaps the best or, as it turns out, the worst example of Mr. Anwar's efforts to control his image was a flattering cover story in the Asian edition of Time magazine last October entitled "Anwar and the Future of Asia." "Malaysia's No. 2 is the star of a rising generation of leaders, but will Mahathir give him a chance?" the magazine asked.

On Thursday, following his press conference, Mr. Anwar spotted one of the authors of the Time article while walking through a crowd of photographers and reporters. Pointing his finger at the reporter, he said half seriously: "The Time magazine article caused it all. You caused it all."

In the article, Mr. Anwar was portrayed as a cosmopolitan leader free from the "hang-ups" of the colonial experience, a direct dig at the older Mr. Mahathir, who was 32 years old when Malaysia became independent from Britain. (Mr. Anwar was 10.) Time described Mr. Anwar as a fan of Western classical music — he "wakes mornings to the strains of Italian opera," the article said — and a reader of Western and Eastern philosophy.



RAID IN TOKYO — Prosecutors raiding the Japanese Defense Ministry on Thursday in a kickback scandal. Prosecutors said they arrested Kenichi Ueno, the deputy head of the ministry's procurement office.

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Syrian Trade Reopened in Iraq

An Israeli official said yesterday that Syria has agreed to open its border with Iraq again. The decision came after a long period of negotiations between the two countries. The opening of the border will allow for the movement of goods and people between the two countries.

2d Bombing Dies in Cape Town

CAPITAL - Two days after the first bombing in Cape Town, South Africa, another explosion occurred in the city. The second bombing killed one person and injured several others. The police are investigating the incident.

Smoke Blankets Most of Britain

SAN FRANCISCO - A massive plume of smoke from a forest fire in Scotland has spread across most of the country, obscuring visibility and causing travel disruptions. The fire, which started on Sunday, has now reached the coast and is threatening homes and businesses.

For the Record

A British court has ruled that the government must provide compensation to victims of the 1982 miners' strike. The court found that the government's actions were discriminatory and violated the miners' rights to a safe working environment.

From Corporate

A British company has announced plans to merge with another company in the United States. The merger will create a larger company with more resources and better access to markets.

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EDITORIALS/OPINION

Herald Tribune
INTERNATIONAL
PUBLISHED WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON POST**Clinton Loses Friends**

In an elegant turn of phrase, Michael Wines of the Moscow bureau of The New York Times described the Clinton-Yeltsin summit meeting as an event teetering "on the slippery brink of self-parody." The same could be said of Bill Clinton's claim at a Moscow press conference that he had adequately apologized for the Monica Lewinsky affair. That view is not widely held among Democrats in Congress or even within the White House staff, and his comments are a troubling sign that he is still relying on outdated reflexes in dealing with the Lewinsky crisis.

He has always been good at rallying himself and his followers against powerful external enemies, be they health care profiteers, talkative mistresses or right-wing conspirators. By conjuring such plotters, he was always able to assume the mantle of aggrieved victim and slip into his favorite campaign persona, that of the resurgent victim.

This personal archetype had a name, the Comeback Kid. But when Mr. Clinton invokes that image these days, as he did in his universally panned semi-confession, he skids toward self-parody. That is because he is seen these days as the victim of his own bad judgment and indiscretion, rather than as the victim of his rhetorical rogues' gallery.

As he resumes his White House schedule, the president has a problem more serious than the condemnation of Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott and the defection of House Minority Leader Dick Gephardt. He is a politician whose most loyal supporters have fallen silent. He is the leader of a party whose high-risk congressional candidates often decline to defend him in public and then bash him in off-the-record conversations. This president's first problem is not winning over his enemies. It is winning back his friends.

Recent pieces by George Stephanopoulos in Newsweek and Dee Myers in Time have traced disaffection among loyalists. It may be the stronger and more pervasive because Mr. Clinton's followers placed such low demands on him. The glue that bound his

supporters to him was the same as that which seemed to bind his marriage: a belief in common values and policy goals. Under the terms of their pragmatic contract, lapses were forgiven and mendacity about them excused as a political necessity. All that was required of Mr. Clinton was that he not gamble with the common policy enterprise through compulsive adventurism.

He not only broke the contract with his staff and supporters. By then attempting to blame Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr for his troubles, Mr. Clinton parodied his trademark blame game. Mr. Starr did not clear Monica Lewinsky into the White House on 37 occasions. Neither did Mr. Starr close the door to the Oval Office study. Those were the acts of a president out of control and in the betrayal mode when it came to the work and dreams that his supporters had entrusted to him.

While Mr. Clinton has conducted his exercise in diplomacy-on-autopilot, at home disappointment has taken deep root among his followers.

There is, as always, a gap between grassroots and elite opinion. The public is tired of the Lewinsky story. The Democratic professionals are tired of Mr. Clinton and jumpy about what will be in Mr. Starr's report to Congress.

So as he turns to the task of winning back his own party, Mr. Clinton faces a problem common to all caught liars. The words that prevailed in prior crises are no longer believable. A speech in the voice of the resurgent victim will flop into overt self-parody. Mr. Clinton's best hope is to throw away the blame script and switch to contrition. But can he?

It is a problem contemplated by a distinguished citizen of Mr. Clinton's home region. William Faulkner believed that the most riveting of human dramas was "the human heart in conflict with itself." As this vacation ends and the nation turns to the work that September always brings, what was true in Yoknapatawpha County will be true at the White House as well.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES.

Food for the Cubans

Imagine the worst of Fidel Castro — that he would consign hundreds of thousands of his citizens to hunger in order to embarrass the United States for its hard-line policy on Cuba. In those circumstances, would the United States not be obliged by moral duty as well as political advantage to bend its restrictions on emergency food aid to Havana in order to save Cuban lives?

A situation resembling this one is at this moment taking shape. Mismanagement aggravated by drought has led the Castro regime to ask the United Nations for food aid in the eastern provinces. The UN World Food Program is responding. Some Clinton officials are inclined to pitch in. But some anti-Castro Cuban-American groups and their Republican supporters in Congress fear that UN food would end up being controlled by the government and used for its own political gains.

No doubt Fidel Castro would exploit food and medicine shipments. He would use them to advertise his international political reach and his ca-

—THE WASHINGTON POST.

Remembering Ruth

It is Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa who seem likely to hit more home runs than anyone in major league history this year. It is Roger Maris whose record of 61 in a season is threatened. So why is Babe Ruth still so much with us this summer? Mostly it is because the story of his 60 home runs is too good to let go of, and so are the voices of the old men who tell it.

Imagining what it must have been like to get to Chicago or St. Louis or New York for the first time and see a Ruth in the flesh — one sighing, maybe your last ever. You can understand how hard a person might work his memory to keep that alive.

Sports Illustrated magazine talked this year with some who remember. One was Paul Hopkins, 93, who threw his first pitches in the major leagues to Babe Ruth in late September 1927 and saw one go over the right field wall for his 59th homer in that 60-home run season. "A beautiful curve," Mr. Hopkins recalled. "Ruth started to swing and then hesitated, hitched on it and brought the bat back. And then he swung, breaking his wrists as he came

—THE WASHINGTON POST.

Herald Tribune

PUBLISHED WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON POST

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International Herald Tribune, 181 Avenue Charles-de-Gaulle, 92521 Neuilly-sur-Seine, France.
Tel: (33) 1 41 43 93 00. Fax: Subscriptions: (1) 41 43 92 10; Advertising: (1) 41 43 92 12; News: (1) 41 43 93 38.
E-mail: ihtr@ihtr.com

Editor for Asia: Michael Rodwin, 5 Canterbury Rd., Singapore 119000. Tel: (65) 477-7768. Fax: (65) 274-3334.
Mr. Dry Asia, Niced 1, Oaklawn, 01201, 191 Java Road, Hong Kong. Tel: 852-292-1188. Fax: 852-292-1189.
Gra. Mgr. Germany: T. Schäfer, Friedrichstrasse 15, 00232 Berlin. Tel: +49 9997250-20. Fax: +49 9997250-20.
Pres. U.S.: Ann Binkley, 850 Third Ave., New York, NY 10022. Tel: (212) 753-3890. Fax: (212) 753-0767.
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S.A.S. au capital de 1.200.000 F. RCS Nanterre B 732021126 Commission Paritaire No. 61337

Bet on Islam of the Rivers Over Islam of the Desert

By Gaber Asfour

CAIRO — The struggle to keep our traditions open in the face of fundamentalist fervor should be seen as an internal matter. This is a clash of one interpretation of Islam versus another.

Just as it has always been, the clash we see today is between the tolerant peoples of the "Islam of the rivers," such as flourished in the Nile delta, and the intolerance of the "Islam of the desert," which has produced the likes of Osama bin Laden, the multimillionaire son of the Saudi Arabian construction magnate.

The desert culture is opposed to the culture of the Nile as well as to the pluralistic, haggling life of the *hawza* — urban alleyway bazaars. It is fanatic. It does not respect diversity of ideas and opinions. It believes that people must have one creed, only one interpretation of religion.

The "other" is hated, always an enemy. Western civilization in particular is distrusted as the modern incarnation of evil. Equality between women and men is not observed in the desert, where women are regarded as a source of temptation and evil. The long gowns of the men, and, of course, the beard, are signs of the desert.

In Islam there have always been two trends: the tolerant "tread of the mind"

associated with the river cultures of Egypt, Syria and Iraq, and the intolerant "tread of transmission" associated with the harsh desert. Loosely translated, "tread of transmission" means literal belief in the text of the Koran as God's infallibly transmitted Word.

In periods of flourishing civilization, in times of defeat, the intolerant trend prevailed.

Intolerant fundamentalism began to grow in the Arab world in the humiliating aftermath of the defeat of the Egyptian army by Israel in 1967. The crisis of identity this caused in Egypt was paralleled by the tremendous explosion of wealth in the Arab oil-producing countries. This provided the Islam of the desert with money.

With money, it is possible to force your culture upon others. Well-financed, desert-based Islam stepped into the vacuum of Egyptian defeat.

Thus, unofficial sources of funds from the Gulf countries, especially from Osama bin Laden, have played a critical role in exporting desert-brand fundamentalism to Egypt.

The Egyptian Ministry of Culture has tried to resist by, among other

methods, publishing a series called "The Books of Enlightenment." But we lack the kind of financial resources that Mr. bin Laden can command; his books are cheap and more widely distributed than ours. When he was living in Sudan, he decided to supplement this activity by strengthening terrorist activities all over the world.

The strongest fundamentalist movement in Egypt today is the Muslim Brotherhood. Founded by Hassan Banna, it started in the Suez Canal area during the period of upheaval against British rule. They mixed the ideas of liberation from colonialism with return to "pure Islam."

Hassan Banna was deeply influenced by the ideas of one of the famous Hanbali scholars, Bin Tanweer, a man of the desert. "Late Hanbali Islam" emerged during the Crusades when Muslims were fighting the invasion from Europe and had to go to ideological extremes to survive. The religious ideas of Bin Tanweer are the basis upon which the Saudi creed was built. Those ideas became the pillars of the state in Saudi Arabia.

At first, the Muslim Brothers remained tolerant because of the Egyptian context. But as time went on, the rise of Gamal Abdel Nasser and the

new Arab nationalism in 1952 created a reaction from the desert.

The Saudi monarchy wanted to destroy the influence of Nasser. In this we saw the beginning of Egypt's struggle with fundamentalism. After Nasser's defeat in 1967 and the destruction of Arab nationalism, the desert Muslims offered their ideology with the slogan "Islam is the Solution."

Their great hope has been that a return to strict Islam would provide the strength for a final victory over Zionism and Israel.

Today the Nile culture is endangered by the encroaching desert. To reassess the Nile sensibility, we are emphasizing cultural education focused on the Egyptian ideas of tolerance and respect for difference.

We will need time to turn back a tide that has been gathering popular momentum for more than 20 years. It won't be easy. But if our long history is any guide, the Nile will nourish tolerant Islam once again.

Gaber Asfour is secretary-general of Egypt's Supreme Council of Culture. This comment, adapted from a conversation with Leila Conners of New Perspectives Quarterly, was distributed by the Los Angeles Times Syndicate.

Two Wounded Presidents, When Leadership Is Urgent

By Flora Lewis

PARIS — Two wounded presidents met this week in Moscow. They could accomplish little beyond avoiding the embarrassment that each would have felt at calling off their long-planned summit.

If it is a pity, there are urgent issues to be addressed between Russia and the United States that are not getting resolved at lower levels of authority.

Nuclear arms control is at the top of the list. The START-2 treaty, which would halve each side's long-range missile warheads and clear the way for negotiations further needed reductions, was signed by President George Bush before he left office. Ratification was then stalled in Washington for three years as host to Senator Jesse Helms's tempestuous feud with the State Department. By the time the Senate acted, Russia's Duma was in no mood to listen to President Boris Yeltsin.

There is little hope, now that

the Duma is doing all it can to cut down Mr. Yeltsin and his

retread prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, preemptively fired only four months ago. Both Mr. Yeltsin and President Bill Clinton would like to divert attention to such major issues, but both are mired in domestic affairs over which they have lost normal control.

One is mired in tragedy as the Russian economy and society decompose, the other in farce. Number one remains a fully effective leader.

The American system, with its well-tested checks and balances, makes it somewhat easier for a hamstrung president to continue to function, and America is still prospering while much of the world crashes into depression that could drag the industrial West down, too.

But Russia is in grave crisis. It is a mistake to consider its marginal share in the world economy as reason to brush aside its woes, and not only because of its missile power. It

remains a vast, important country with huge potential, and it needs to be a more integral part of the world community if the post-Cold War period is not to slide into new disasters.

Perhaps too much was made of the role of leaders and their personal relations during the long years of trying to manage confrontation. Modern media magnify individuals at the peak, so that their weakness seems to undermine a whole nation.

But decisions do have to be made in dealing with assorted threats around the globe — Iraq, Central Africa, Bosnia, Kosovo, North Korea — and they aren't made when presidents are distracted or paralyzed.

Fortunately, there is a consensus among the Western powers to continue trying to help Russia find its way out of the badly bungled transition from a communist economy to the market. But there is a dilemma. Much of the aid so far has been

wasted or stolen, so there is a reasonable demand that further contributions must have strings of conditionality attached.

The standard IMF conditions of slashing the budget, tightening the currency, privatizing the economy (which has not undercut monopolies, only shifted control to greedy financiers) are inappropriate or have not worked, however. More of the same will produce more of the same — accumulating disaster.

The Communist leader, Genadi Zyuganov, was right to say that the reominated prime minister offered no coherent program or useful policies. That was the reason the Communists gave for voting against Mr. Chernomyrdin, although their real motive was evidently to enforce a deal stripping Mr. Yeltsin of most of his power.

There needs to be a much more careful analysis of the kinds of reform that Western aid seeks to promote, with an understanding that monetary maneuvers are not at the heart of

the problem, which is to get people back to work and to earning purchasing power.

The West cannot interfere in the leadership issue, just as America would not tolerate foreign interference in Mr. Clinton's travail. But it cannot avoid interfering on programmatic issues if it is to keep providing credit. To cut off aid would also be a form of interference.

It is something of an irony that at the end of a century whose worst problems were caused by autocratic and dictatorial leaders, weakness at the top is the problem now for these two countries. Both Mr. Clinton and Mr. Yeltsin face recalcitrant, hostile legislatures, and legislatures are inherently poor at statesmanship.

The names of the leaders don't matter all that much, but the capacity to make and carry out reasoned policies does matter.

America must do what it can to get Russia and itself out of their paralyzing binds.

Flora Lewis.

But Why Insist on Painful Reform if the Russians Don't Want It?

By Charles Krauthammer

WASHINGTON — Why is America playing doctor to Russia? What was Bill Clinton doing over there in the middle of an economic collapse urging Russians to endure even more bitter economic medicine?

Seven years ago, the U.S. policy of urging unbending capitalist reform made sense. We didn't know where Russia was going. It was still possible that it would turn from a communist enemy into a strong, patient, democratic partner.

We now know that this is not going to happen. Russia has turned into something rather different. It is a democracy in

form, having elected a president and a Duma, but for seven years it has been decidedly authoritarian. Almost all power has been vested in a president who routinely ignored the Duma and ruled by decree.

Seven years have produced not a free market but what Grigori Yavlinsky, one of the country's leading democrats, calls "a corporatist and criminalized sort of capitalism." An oligarchy of barons, having in effect stolen a huge part of the Soviet patrimony, rule and rob the country, sometimes with

and sometimes without the acquiescence of Boris Yeltsin's people, while the general economy sinks into oblivion.

Mr. Clinton flies into this swamp and what does he do? He urges Russians to stay the course — to endure more pain because "I do not believe there are any painless solutions." To pay their taxes — to a kleptocracy understandably unable to collect any. To repay their foreign creditors, in a country where schoolteachers and coal miners and soldiers have gone unpaid for months.

The immediate pressure is acute, with reportedly less than three weeks' import cover, and reserves insufficient to cover the estimated \$1.7 billion debt over the next eight weeks to foreign commercial banks and to the World Bank and the IMF.

At one level, Pakistan lacks an ability to consolidate a democratic order; an inability to sustain Pakistan's founding fervor; an impatience in its rapidly burgeoning and young but too often illiterate population for material gains.

At another level, Pakistan lacks a great deal. Where, as in India's southern state of Kerala, can one find female literacy rates of 96 percent or more? Or even a quarter of Pakistan's human talent remains superb, as anyone in the West who deals with the country knows very well.

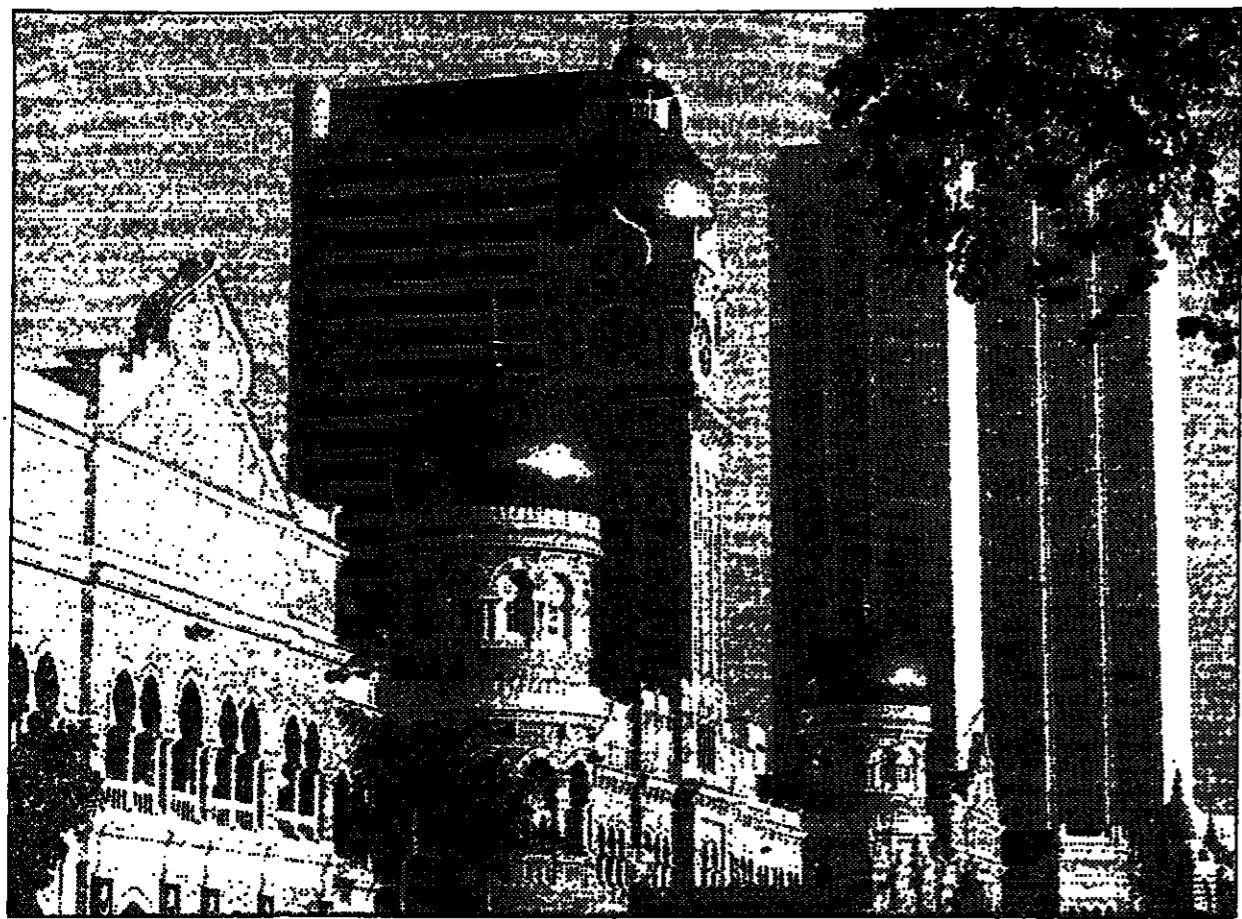
At another level, Pakistan lacks an ability to sustain energy production, whether it is atomic energy or in aerospace technology, has yielded a vast, government-funded structure of basic research and production, but Pakistan had to build a scientific establishment on the cheap.

Pakistan's nuclear development program always has had a scratch-and-grab quality to it — one reason why Western intelligence agencies know more about Pakistani nuclear capability than about India's.

But the terrible dilemma over testing — India's explosions in May forced Pakistan

Leisure

TOMORROW:
MOVIE



Skyscrapers loom above the colonial-era palace of the Sultan Abdul Samad in central Kuala Lumpur.

Malaysia's Dazzling Mosaic

Pursuing the Secrets of the Mysterious Peninsula

By Gary Lee
Washington Post Service

MALACCA, Malaysia — The sultry air hanging over Malacca did not make for an easy climb, but I was determined to make it to the top of the grass-covered knoll ahead. One of the three secrets to the charm of the Malay Peninsula, a less-traveled corner of Southeast Asia, celebrated for its lush tropical landscapes and colorfully mixed population, lay somewhere up there.

Or so my guide had told me. Sofyan, a Malay chef who had taken his day off from making a spicy beef stew known as rendang to show me around Malaysia's third largest city, was scampering a few feet ahead, up the incline called Bukit China. Earlier that afternoon, during a chance meeting in a café, he had asked what brought me to this sleepy Malaysian port.

Looking up from my glass of sugar cane juice, I wondered what I should say. That I was drawn halfway around the world by the ball of orange that drops breathtakingly across the Straits of Malacca at dusk? Or that it was the irresistible taste of spicy noodles sold by street hawkers that had attracted me? Or should I acknowledge why I had really come to wander the beige beaches of the Malaysian island of Penang?

I was searching for a place of perfect ethnic harmony. Through books and photographs, I had amassed an image of Malaysia as home to the world's most extraordinary conglomeration of races and faiths. The demographics of the region are dazzling. Of Malaysia's 21 million inhabitants, about 59 percent are Malays — a brown-skinned people of blood mixed from Chinese, Arabs, Siamese and Javanese.

Chinese, who first came as traders in the late 14th century, comprise 32 percent. Indians make up 9 percent. Iban, Kadazan and a handful of other indigenous tribes constitute the rest. Islam, imported by traders from southern India, was embraced by Malays and is now the country's predominant religion. Many Malaysians also practice Hinduism, Taoism and Christianity.

Of course, population statistics tell only part of the story. Over the past century, a few scribes have filled in much of the rest, in vivid detail. In "The Rescue," Lord Jim" and other tales, Joseph Conrad wrote of the Malay archipelago as a dark and brooding place, where powerful sultans and rajas rose and fell. Chinese merchants amassed fortunes and a hardcore British expatriate elite clung to colonial power, all against the background of the humid tropics.

More recently, in "The Straits Chinese," the Malaysian sociologist Khoo Jo Ee shone a light on the rich subculture of Babas and Nonyas (respectively, the male and female offspring of Sino-Malay unions) that flourished for centuries in Penang, Malacca and Singapore.

GETTING BEHIND THE SURFACE The more I learned about this region, the more I wanted to immerse myself in it.

Malacca, my starting point, is an ancient port that played a pivotal role in the settlement of the Malay Peninsula. Strategically located on the banks of the Straits of Malacca, it served as a point of entry and massive marketplace for spice merchants and other traders from the far corners of Asia. Successive conquerors claimed the city and built forts here. A century of government by Sumatran princes and sultans eventually gave way to Portuguese colonialists, who re-



One of the faces of Malaysia's rich culture.

In the end, the secret lies in three different places. Come. We have just enough time to visit them."

Our first stop was the Sri Pogya Vinayagar Moorthi Temple. Built of wood in traditional Indian style in 1781, it has been used since then as a place of Hindu worship.

From there we took a taxi to the Villa Sentosa, a small traditional Malay house on the edge of the city that serves as a museum showing outsiders how most Malays live.

Then we headed for Bukit China, a burial ground for Malaysians of Chinese descent. It's on a hill in a quiet corner of the city, footsteps away from Chinatown. As we climbed, I began to see tombstones rising above the uncultivated grass. I was at once inspired and mildly irritated. The inspiration came from the stunning view of the city from the top of the hill. The irritation resulted from spending a precious afternoon in a rundown cemetery. It was not until a week later that I took time to reflect on that afternoon in Malacca.

My thoughts turned to my visits to the Malay house, the Hindu temple and Bukit China. I finally understood why he described them as secrets to the charm of the Malay Peninsula.

Together, the places represented the cornerstones of human existence in Malaysia: home, spiritual fulfillment and death. No matter where we all originated or what our skin tone, my guide seemed to say, our lives are about living under a roof and making peace with a higher being.

The next day we headed for the city of Kuala Lumpur, the capital of Malaysia. It's a sprawling metropolis of 10 million people, a mix of modern skyscrapers and traditional architecture.

We took a taxi to the National Museum, which houses a vast collection of artifacts from prehistoric times to the present. I was particularly impressed by the exhibits on the history of the Malay Peninsula, including a full-scale reconstruction of a traditional Malay house.

Finally, we visited the Petronas Twin Towers, the tallest buildings in the world. From the top, we had a panoramic view of the city, including the surrounding hills and mountains.

From Sushi to Empanada

The New York Times takes a look at eating in four cities around the world:

TOKYO: A GREAT EATING TOWN

Tokyo remains one of the world's great eating cities, and a good place to begin is Roppongi, the night life district. Some of the city's best sushi can be found at Fuku Zushi, 5-7-8 Roppongi, Minato-ku, (81-3) 3402-4116, just underneath the Tokyo version of Spago, the Los Angeles restaurant. Lunch is a great bargain here, about \$20 at current exchange rates. Dinner runs from \$42 to \$75, a person if you stick to the set menus, but it can easily go higher if you order sushi by the piece and drink.

Just a few steps away is the noisy, always entertaining Inakaya, 3-3-4 Roppongi Minato-ku, Tokyo, (81-3) 3408-5040, a place for grilled wonders from shrimp to huge shiitake mushrooms, that go far beyond conventional yakitori — grilled chicken on short wooden sticks. But the best part is the atmosphere. Diners sit at a horseshoe-shaped bar, and the chefs with traditional Japanese kerchiefs tied around their heads pass your food to you on long wooden paddles, while shouting orders at their colleagues (and sometimes their customers). The average price is about \$80 a person.

There is plenty of good cheap food, too; feasts can be had for \$20 or less. In the early evening, try the noodles and the yakitori under the tracks around Yurakucho Station, in the heart of downtown. This is where Japanese workers grab a bite before catching a train home. Most of the tables are outside, with a great view of the bullet trains pulling in overhead.

Down by the Tsukiji fish market is some of the best inexpensive dining in the city; just follow the workers at the market (their overalls covered with bits of fish) and eat where they eat. At Tsumagame, Kyosai-kaikan Building, B1 Floor, 4-7-3 Tsukiji, Chuo-ku, (81-3) 3541-3300, shrimp, vegetables and everything else come out of the tempura pot. The narrow bar, open until 2:30 P.M., is near the main Tsukiji intersection.

— David E. Sanger

NEW YORK: A WORLD TOUR

Like French food? You're better off in Paris. If Chinese food is your passion, go to Hong Kong. You will undoubtedly find superior sushi in Tokyo, tastier tacos in Tijuana and better birianis in Calcutta. But if you have a restless appetite, New York City is the world's best place to eat. You can have it all.

— Ruth Reichl

lightly charred crust that has the exact taste of southern Italy.

It seems like a long leap to Korea, but not on this trip. In that country Cho Dang Gol is a village known throughout the land for the quality of its bean curd. In New York it is the name of a restaurant at 55 West 35th Street, (212) 695-8222, that makes spectacular fresh bean curd every day and serves it in a range of dishes rarely seen outside of Korea.

There is no nicer way to while away an afternoon than with a glass of retsina and a few tapas (like tapas) in a Greek taverna. The one we're looking for is right on Seventh Avenue, Molivos, 871 7th Avenue, near 55th Street, (212) 582-7500, is named for a town on the island of Lesbos, and while it lacks a seaside setting, the tzatziki, or cucumber, yogurt and garlic dip, and *taratorosalata*, whipped fish roe, can take me, at least briefly, to a small Aegean island.

And now for a taste of international luxury: champagne and caviar in the dark Art Deco elegance of Petrossian, 182 West 58th Street, (212) 245-2214. It is just the thing before dinner, back in Paris. When Maguy Le Coze moved to New York in 1986 she and her late brother, Gilbert, changed the way Americans thought about fish. Eating at her establishment, Le Bernardin, 155 West 51st Street, (212) 489-1515, is like visiting an exquisite restaurant in the City of Light. The three-course prix fixe dinner costs \$70 and the wine list holds many temptations.

I love all of these restaurants. But even more than that I love knowing that I can get up tomorrow and start all over again — with an entirely different itinerary.

— Ruth Reichl

MADRAS: DUMPLING AS SPONGE

I am up to my knuckles in *idli* again. For the three weeks I've been traveling through Tamil Nadu, the Indian state at the southeastern end of the subcontinent, I've not encountered a single spoon or fork. But I've handled — with the fingers of my right hand, as is polite here — at least one hundred of these white steamed dumplings, about the size and shape of a powderpuff, made of rice and ground lentils.

It's a messy business, for a South Indian *idli* is not meant simply to be picked up and eaten like a bun. It is an edible sponge, and the only way to really savor it is when it is sopping with the juice of one of its inseparable companions: chili and coconut chutney, and the rich, spice-laden reddish-brown soup called *sambhar*.

This is where the knuckles come in. *Idli*-eating in a typical Madras restaurant like the Maharaja on Triplicane High Road, involves dumping the chutney and *sambhar* over the dumpling, then massaging them into the dumpling with your fingertips, to mix everything around nicely into a mush on the banana leaf that graces your tin platter, or *thali*.

To the uninitiated, it feels a bit like kneading the ingredients for a meatloaf. Doing it in public embarrassed me at first — I felt like a 6-year-old. Even more embarrassing was that the waiters would gather around to watch. By now, I'm a practiced hand because in Madras you get *idlis* for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Madras — officially known now as Chennai — is not a great town for pricey, upscale linen-tablecloth dining (with one major exception: the exquisite Annalakshmi, 804 Anna Salai, 852-5109, a vegetarian gourmet oasis of hushed voices, antique wood-carved panels and brass chargers, run by devotees of the guru Sivananda), but it may well be the capital of haute cafeteria cuisine. The city boasts hundreds of fast lunch places, like the Maharaja, where 75 cents buys you a bottomless thali lunch fit for a prince.

Tamil cuisine, like its culture, is thousands of years old, and revolves around a handful of staples: the aforementioned *idli*, the huge crisp rice or wheat-batter pancake called the *dosa*, the savory golden-brown doughnut-like *vada*. Yet within that palette there is such variety and subtlety, such potential for culinary disaster or triumph! Ferment the batter of the dumplings for too long, and they will turn sour; steam them excessively, or leave them sitting for more than an hour or two, and they will turn to foam rubber; lace them with shredded carrots and chopped cashews, and serve them at steaming point, and they approach the divine.

In an ancient cuisine like the Tamil, the novelty of innovation falls away.

replaced by the impulse for perfection. Perhaps that is why the waiters at Maharaja are running so urgently from kitchen to table to kitchen.

— Daisann McLane

BUENOS AIRES: ABUNDANCE

Good food is relished here, eating out a part of life. Humble or grand, *criollo* or immigrant, the *porteno* has a restaurant he is ready to swear by. The best *empanada*? "At El Sanjuanino, of course." El Sanjuanino is at 1312 Soldado de la Independencia, (54-1) 784-9589, but the *empanada* is also a staple of the corner restaurant. A delectable and filling pastry turnover, it is usually filled with meat, chicken, or ham and cheese. Pizza, Argentine style, comes in a close second. An Italian import with a local bent, the secret here is in the crust: thin and crunchy, or thick and spongy. Toppings are exhaustive and heavy on the mozzarella. Pizzerias abound, but local purists patronize Los Inmortales, which has five locations, including 1369 Avenida Corrientes, (54-1) 373-5303, for the perfect Argentine pizza.

The favored meal in this nation of meat-eaters is a feast at a *parrilla*, or steakhouse. Windows display grilling goats



stretched on a spit, but beef is the passion. An *asado* (barbecued meat) or a *parillada* — mixed grill with steak, short ribs, kidneys, blood sausage, tripe and sweetbreads — traditional. The steaks are legendary. There are many *parrillas*. But numero uno right now is arguably Cabana Las Lilas, 516 Avenida Alicia Moreau de Justo, (54-1) 313-1336.

Las Lilas displays South American art, looks out on the docks and is in very fashionable Puerto Madero — a section of restored 19th-century warehouses along the Rio de la Plata. If you've had your fill of meat, try some of the other good restaurants there, including Katrine, 138 Avenida Alicia Moreau de Justo, (54-1) 315-6222, for Mediterranean/Asia-Pacific/Californian cuisine, and Dique Cuatro, 176 Avenida Alicia Moreau de Justo, (54-1) 315-6259, for seafood. Whatever the choice, in Buenos Aires dinner starts around 10 P.M., cost \$50 to \$60 a person with wine in the places, and goes on for hours.

Buenos Aires is a city enriched by mass immigrations and the cuisines that come with them. Some popular choices: *Cantinas* in Barrio La Boca display hanging hams and serve Italian-Argentine pasta; La Taurina, 1485 Bartolome Cruz, in Barrio Vicente Lopez, on the city's outskirts, (54-1) 797-6580, has the best tapas; Morizone, at 390 Paraguay, (54-1) 314-0924, and 3521 Paraguay, (54-1) 823-4250, spectacular sushi. The London Grill and Oyster Bar, 455 Reconquista, (54-1) 311-2223, could be in England; Schlotsky's Deli, 480 Avenida Corrientes, (54-1) 394-4016, could be in New York. And with French and international fare, La Bourgogne, 207 Ayacucho in the Alvear Palace Hotel, (54-1) 805-3857, is known as the country's best restaurant, where dinner costs \$55 to \$70 a person with wine.

It is fun to eat as *portenos* do, and a meal (\$26 with wine) at Los Anos Locos, a no-holds-barred *parrilla* on Costanera Norte across from the river, (54-1) 784-8681, is a classic. Big and bustling, it serves first-rate meat. The portions are huge; come with mountains of french fries and salad, and take hours to polish off. Which is much of the fun.

— Barbara Cansino

Provencal Chef's Ode to Melons

By Patricia Wells
International Herald Tribune

CAVAILLON, France — Would that 100 regional chefs in France had the same passion for produce as Jean-Jacques Prevot. Anyone familiar with this Provencal capital of the European cantaloupe could suspect that the famed "melon de Cavaillon" would fall into this range of obsession, and so it does.

Until the end of the month this enthusiastic, committed chef is offering a lively all-melon menu, in which he features every part of the fragrant, sweet and juicy fruit. From the seeds, or *pepins*, he concocts a luscious, purée-like sauce. The flesh just beneath the rind is turned into a slippery pickle. A gelatin-like sauce adorns the local banana shallot, or *echalote de Simiane*, which is cooked ever so slowly in red wine sauce.

Perfect slices of melon are sautéed in butter and olive oil, anointed with a touch of balsamic vinegar, and turned into a rosette-like offering, twisting the melon slices with smooth and mild slices of wild boar ham. The accompanying pickles form a perfect foil. Monkfish is stuffed with nuggets of melon, the fish is cooked slightly, then teamed up with a iodine-rich sauce based on the delicate langoustines, or Dublin Bay prawns.

His nougat glace is laced with a confiture of melon, and of course the house aperitif is a refreshing, melon-flavored drink that includes an infusion of dozens of local herbs. He will show you the melon can be eaten raw or cooked, sweet or salty, hot, cold, or spiced, as an entrée or a dessert.

Prevot — whose family has been in the restaurant business in France for several generations — continues to dig deeper and deeper, working with melon growers to create a super-sweet and juicy Cavailion melon whose sweetness level is inspected with a syringe.

The small restaurant in the center of this old-fashioned farming town is decorated with what must be the

world's largest collection of melon memorabilia, including Art Deco forks for spearing cubes of melon, melon artwork, pottery, posters, and trumpery.

At the end of the season Prevot does not close up shop. He turns his attention to scallops, for his mother once ran a restaurant in Brittany where coquilles Saint-Jacques were the specialty.

In the winter, Prevot offers an all-truffle menu. All this would be a lot of trickery if Prevot's passions were not built on the complete understanding of his ingredient, and a willingness to capture the best qualities of each.

Prevot, 353 Avenue de Verdun, 84300 Cavaillon, Tel: 04-90-71-32-43. Fax: 04-90-71-97-05. Credit cards: American Express, Visa. Closed Sunday dinner and Monday. Open for Sunday lunch from September to July. All-melon menu from 295 to 360 francs, including service but no wine. A la carte, 280 to 360 francs.

JULY 10, 1998

anada

Drinks Worth a Thousand Words

By William Grimes
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — The right drink does more than slake a thirst. It takes you somewhere, even though "somewhere" might be the very place you happen to be.

A whiff of calvados in the fall sends a fragrant message straight from the orchards of Normandy. Consumed on the spot, at a cafe in Rouen, it fills in a tiny blank space on the imagination's map. With a poet's concision, it explains the place. For centuries, Normandy has been apples and apples have been Normandy.

What could bring the point home more memorably than a few ounces of the local spirit? A snifter is worth a thousand words.

In the great age of travel, this romantic link between drink and destination could get out of hand. In "The Gentleman's Companion," written in 1939, Charles Baker Jr. outlined a grand cocktail tour that took the reader on imaginative flights fueled by drinks like the Tiger's Milk, "from the historic Wagons-Lits in the Peking Legation Quarter," or "the unpredictable Balloon Cocktail from Calcutta's smartest restaurant, Firpo's." American readers whose idea of exotic travel went no farther than the Grand Canyon could go to their kitchens and shake up a Colombo Flying Fish or a Rangoon Star Ruby.

Baked went overboard, but in principle he was right. As often as not, drinks exude a heady local atmosphere, because they have a profound connection with the region or the city that gave birth to them.

Wine, beer and spirits literally spring from the soil underfoot, and, like a magic potion, they can transport a traveler straight to the roots of the territory he or she is exploring. France offers finer wines than Muscadet, but who, stepping off the ferry from Dover, would order anything else with a platter of oysters? A couple of years ago, when my wife and I settled in for a week in Les Montades, a one-street village in Languedoc, our landlady greeted us with a chilled bottle of Picpoul de Pinet — not great wine, but a profoundly local one. It was like getting a key to the city.

Cocktails, too, speak with a local accent — not all of them, but enough of them to make the shrewd traveler think twice before reflexively ordering a generic vodka and tonic. Colonial rule has vanished, but the parched traveler in Bombay is allowed to conjure up one Merchant-Ivory moment by ordering a



Pimm's cup, or a Somerset Maugham moment drinking a Singapore Sling at Raffles Hotel.

And breathes there a man with a soul so dead that he would not order a sidecar at Harry's New York Bar in Paris? This titian among drinks, a combination of cognac, Cointreau and lemon juice, may or may not have originated at Harry's, but the bar is without question its spiritual home. Ordering one is an act of solidarity with the wave of Americans, Hemingway and Fitzgerald among them, who beat an elbow at Cinq Rue Daunou in the 1920s.

New Orleans can reasonably claim to be the most different city in the land — it is in the United States but not necessarily of it. Exhibit A in this case would be the city's native cocktails, idiosyncratic concoctions that evoke the cosmopolitan, polyglot New Orleans of the early 19th century. Order a sazerac or a Ramos gin fizz anywhere else in America and you will be rewarded with a blank stare.

At Antoine's, or Arnaud's or the Sazerac in the Fauchon Hotel, they know. The sazerac is a rye cocktail enlivened and Frenchified with a splash of Pernod (it used to be absinthe) and a dash of the locally produced Peychaud's bitters. The Ramos gin fizz is a feather-light gin cocktail made with lemon and lime juice, orange-flower water, egg white and cream, shaken until it becomes a fragrant foam.

Most New Yorkers think of the Waldorf-Astoria as a hotel, but for cocktail enthusiasts it is a bar, richer in history than any other bar in the city. It takes a little imagination to reclaim the place and turn back the clock, since the old Waldorf Bar disappeared with the old Waldorf-Astoria in 1929 after serving as a "potent school of bibulous instruction," in the

words of one historian, from 1893 to the onset of Prohibition in 1920. But the new bar salvaged the bronze bull and bear that presided over the old place and maintained the ornate look that spelled luxury in the days when giants like Bettie Gates roamed Manhattan, and Buffalo Bill Cody held court, happy to accept a free drink with the words, "Sir, you speak the language of my tribe."

The stock ticker is electronic now, and the sporting element has disappeared, but the Bull and Bear, as the bar is now called, is still a good setting in which to sniff the faint lingering aroma of an older, brasher New York. The appropriate drink helps: There's no point in asking for a McKinley's Delight, a 1915, a Thibby of most of the more than 400 cocktails served at the Waldorf Bar, but a Bronx might put you in business. Before Prohibition, this beguiling combination of gin, orange juice and sweet and dry vermouth ranked as one of the city's most popular cocktails. Overconsumption of bathtub gin disguised by orange juice pretty much ruined that particular flavor combination, and the noble Bronx died an untimely death. It deserves to be rehabilitated and placed right next to the Manhattan as one of New York's many gifts to the civilized world.

THE history-minded cocktail lover could cut a wide swath back and forth across the United States, sipping a Ward Eight in Boston, a Clover Club in Philadelphia and a Hemingway-sized delirium in Key West. A pipecock punch in San Francisco would honor the clipper-ship era, when pisco brandy made its way up the coast from Peru, and no California trip would be complete without a move south for the island fantasy drinks that Don the Beachcomber and Trader Vic unleashed in the 1930s and 1940s.

There's a purely selfish reason to drink local. You stand a better chance of getting a quality product.

The mint julep never did much for me until the day I found myself in Jocelyn's, a small family-run restaurant in Ocean Springs, Mississippi. When the waiter drifted over and asked for drink orders, one of the diners, a local resident, said, "Go on and try the julep — they're pretty good here."

The waiter returned with a tray of tall glasses beaded with condensation. I lifted an ice-packed glass, buried my nose in a sprig of mint garnish and let the rich, sweet bourbon trickle down my throat. As thirst quenchers go, this one ranked near the top of the major leagues.

ARTS GUIDE

AUSTRIA

Vienna
Kunstforum, tel: (1) 71191-5737, open daily. To Nov. 20: "Art in der Russischen Kunst." The use and symbolism of the color red in Russian art over six centuries, from icons to Expressionism, Avant-Garde and Propaganda art under Stalin.

BRITAIN

London
National Gallery, tel: (171) 747-2885, open daily. Continuing! To Oct. 11: "Venice Through Canaletto's Eyes." The splendor of Venice's festivals, regattas and other ceremonies in the paintings and drawings of the 18th-century Italian artist.
www.nationalgalerie.org.uk

CHINA

Beijing
Forbidden City, Sept. 5-13: Performances of Puccini's "Turandot." Directed by the Chinese director Zhang Yirou and conducted by Zubin Mehta. The orchestra and chorus of the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino accompany Maria Guleghina, Jane Eaglen and Shansong Wei who alternate in the title role; Lando Bartolini, Sergej Larin and Kristjan Johansson also sing the role of the audacious prince.
www.turandot-on-site.com

FINLAND

Helsinki
Helsingin Taidemuseo, tel: (0) 454-20-60, closed Mondays. Continuing! To Oct. 4: "Christian Bottnski." The French artist (born 1944) seeks to catch daily life's fleeting moments in delicate collages and installations.



"Ictus," by Paul Gauguin, on exhibition at the Fondation Pierre Gianadda in Martigny, Switzerland.

FRANCE

PARIS

Hotel de Ville, tel: 01-42-76-51-53, closed Mondays. To Nov. 1: "Constant Permeke, 1886-1952: A retrospective of paintings, 18 drawings and 8 sculptures, by the Belgian realist. Features marines, still lifes, portraits and created after 1935, female nudes.

GERMANY

BERLIN

Neue Nationalgalerie, tel: (0) 30-2655, closed Mondays. Continuing! To Oct. 11: "Lyonel Feininger: From Gelmeroda to Manhattan." Paintings by the artist (1871-1956) who worked in Germany until he was branded a "degenerate" artist by the Nazis.

ITALY

Galleria Borghese, tel: (0) 32-81-01, closed Mondays. Continuing! To Sept. 20: "Bennini and the Birth of Baroque." Sculptures by Gian Lorenzo Bernini (1598-1680).

VENICE

Peggy Guggenheim Collection, tel: (41) 520-5228, closed Tuesdays. Continuing! To Sept. 13: "The Later Morandi: Still Lifes, 1950-1964." Variations in tone, composition and viewpoints of the same subject matter.

JAPAN

Kyoto National Museum of Modern Art, tel: (75) 761-4111, closed Mon-

days. To Sept. 20: "Shikanosuke Oka." A celebration of the centennial of the birth of Shikanosuke Oka. More than 100 paintings, in the Pointillist technique acquired during the artist's stay in France, recreate a serene and dreamy atmosphere.

www.momak.go.jp

TOKYO Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum, tel: (3) 3823-6921, closed every third Monday. Continuing! To Oct. 4: "Masterworks From the Carmen Thyssen-Bornemisza Collection." Approximately 100 paintings on loan from the Madrid collection. The works cover European and American painting from the 18th century to the beginning of the 20th century.

SINGAPORE

Singapore Art Museum, tel: 332-3222, closed Mondays. Continuing! To Sept. 13: "The Origins of Modern Art in France, 1880-1930." More than 70 paintings and sculptures by French Impressionist, Postimpressionist, Fauvist and surrealists artists.

SWEDEN

Stockholm Moderna Museet, tel: (8) 519-5200, closed Mondays. Continuing! To Oct. 13: "The Desiring Eye." A survey of the development of photography from the 1840s to the 1990s with more than 200 works by Julia Margaret Cameron, Nadar, Roger Fenton, Man Ray, Paul Strand and Ansel Adams.

www.moderna.org

SAN FRANCISCO San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, tel: (415) 357-4000, closed Wednesdays. Continuing! To Dec. 1: "Alexander Calder, 1898-1976." A demonstration of the range of the

artist's creativity: minute wire sculptures, monumental stabiles, lesser-known wooden sculptures, paintings in the style of the Ashcan School as well as works on paper and jewelry.

54

Directed by Mark Christopher U.S.

Years from now, if Mark Christopher's timid, meandering film is spoken of at all, it will probably be lumped together with Whit Stillman's "Last Days of Disco" as one of two movies released in 1998 to bungle the same opportunity. Both films, while purporting to examine New York City's voracious late-1970s disco culture, adopt a primly distanced attitude toward a moment, just before the AIDS epidemic struck, when voluptuous hedonism became a kind of mass hysteria. Sex, drugs and disco: you couldn't ask for a juicier mix. But when it comes to squeezing juice, both movies come up dry. Christopher's film is an informal history of Studio 54, the disco culture's ultimate pleasure dome and celebrity hangout, a kind of floating Andy Warhol party whose glory days ended abruptly when the place was raided by the Internal Revenue Service. Unable to decide if it's a retrospective expose, a "Saturday Night Live" spoof or a "Saturday Night Fever" rethread, "54" ends up a confused mishmash of all of them. The film provides only scattered intimations of the tribal ecstasy, the beat-driven synergy of light, sound, drug-enhanced eroticism and the giddy narcissistic euphoria of imagining yourself at the center of the world, which was the essence of the Studio 54 experience. The movie's strongest element is its star, Ryan Phillippe, whose character, Shane O'Shea, sporadically narrates the movie. An ambitious 19-year-old nobody from Jersey City, Shane drives into Manhattan one night with a bunch of friends and finds himself the only member of his party selected for entrance into the magical kingdom presided over by the club's gay social director, Steve Rubell (Mike Meyers). Ascending from boy to bartender, Shane becomes one of the club's in-house stars who at the height of his glory drives around in a car with personalized license plates. As Rubell, who calibrated Studio 54's mighty chemistry of celebrities, pretty boys, models, moguls and colorful eccentrics, Meyers turns in a skin-deep caricature that is only half a step away from a comic spoof. The movie might have worked had it decided which story it wanted to tell and stuck to its guns. But instead of exploring the heart and souls of its urban dreams, it feels like a crudely patched-together collection of notes for a project that got lost on the cutting-room floor.

(Stephen Holden, NYT)

NEXT STOP WONDERLAND

Directed by Brad Anderson U.S.

This film has its Alice, its Queen of Hearts and even a rabbit hole of sorts. There are also many odd creatures stirring about this whimsical tale. That they happen to be everyday dweebs, duds and freaks attest to the off-center sensibilities of this charming comedy about the search for love. Erin (Hope Davis) is the "Alice": a not-quite-beautiful blonde with a propensity toward bemusement. Her mother (Holland Taylor) is the imperious know-it-all, and Wonderland is a Boston sub-

MOVIE GUIDE

54

Directed by Mark Christopher U.S.

way stop. Lest we stretch the metaphor like the elastic in an old pair of pantyhose, we should mention that the tale's structure is more in line with "Sleepless in Seattle." Though a shade darker than the commercial hit, "Wonderland" similarly keeps audiences in suspense by keeping potential soul mates apart. Here, however, it's not distance but circumstance that prevents them from cute collision. Though they regularly cross paths, they invariably go their separate ways at the last millisecond. But in examining their separate lives, director Brad Anderson and his hand-held camera hope to prove that Alan (Alan Gelbart), a pensive ex-plumber, is meant for Erin, a wiseful night-shift nurse. And while we'd rather see her run off with a hunky Brazilian (Jose Zuniga), Anderson does have a point. Erin, dumped by her activist boyfriend (Philip Seymour Hoffman) in the film's witty prologue, is soon wallowing in solitude. She has come to treasure her time alone, reading the old books she loves, listening to her bossa nova records and remembering her late father. When her mother discovers Erin thus becalmed, she decides to blast her out of her funk. Without telling her, she places a personals ad in the local paper. "Frisky, cultured with a zest for life," hardly describes the sad, somewhat cranky and still supremely ticked-off Erin. Though she's furious with her mother for meddling, Erin gives in to her curiosity and responds to the sudden deluge of voice mail. Meanwhile, Alan pursues his studies in marine biology, volunteers at the Boston Aquarium and tends off the frequent advances of a lusty classmate (Carrie Bueno). He's also in hock to a loan shark, both for his tuition money and for his father's gambling debts.

"Next Stop Wonderland" manages to keep the soul mates apart and still keep us guessing. (Rita Kempley, WP)

BLADE

Directed by Stephen Norrington U.S.

In the lurid, loud and bloodshot "Blade," Wesley Snipes isn't so much cast in the title role of a comic-book superhero vampire hunter as he is infected by it. As Blade — a half-man, half-vampire born to a mother bitten during pregnancy — Snipes's performance is fever-hot and artery-deep: He becomes a nitro-burning vehicle for his larger-than-life alter ego. In one of the film's earliest scenes, Blade is shown brutally pummeling the face of a policeman he suspects has been collaborating with the vampire underworld, which the film would have you believe is everywhere. Using the man's body as an impromptu dust mop, he proceeds to clean up the apartment of a woman he has just rescued from a particularly bloodyborth: jugular-sucker (Donald Logue). "Is all that necessary?" asks Karen (N'Bushe Wright), as her furniture explodes in splinters. Strictly speaking, yes. Not to advance the story, however. What narrative there is here — a dense, illogical tangle involving the plot of a young, renegade vampire posse to usurp their elders and defy their leader (Stephen Dorff) — is as ridiculous as the day is long. With style to burn, the production team has created an entire, lavish world out of only three colors: black, white and red. In the stark, anonymous metropolis of "Blade," there are no other hues. Its stomach-turning special effects, bone-crunching martial arts and cynical humor will more than satisfy any action-film addict's need for a fix of eye-popping escapist adrenalin. (Michael O'Sullivan, WP)

CLOSING SOON

AMERICAS

Sept. 7: "Wilhelm Hammershoi, 1864-1916: Danish Painter of Solitude and Light." Guggenheim Museum, New York.

Sept. 8: "Sir Edward Burne-Jones." Metropolitan Museum, New York.

Sept. 7: "Artists and the Avant-Garde Theater in Paris, 1887-1900." National Gallery of Art, Washington.

ASIA

Sept. 6: "The Grand Chinese Cultural Exhibition Encore." Building 53, Seoul.

Sept. 8: "North Asian Biennale." Taipei Fine Arts Museum, Taipei.

Sept. 6: "Chinese Lacquer Paintings." Tokyo National Museum.

EUROPE

Sept. 6: "Anton Tapies: Paintings, Sculptures and Drawings, 1961-1997." Kunsthalle Krems, Austria.

Sept. 6: "Patrick Heron." Tate Gallery, London.

Sept. 6: "From Durer to Rauschenberg: A Comparison of Drawing." Deutsche Guggenheim, Berlin.

Sept. 6: "The Influence of Italy on Dutch and Flemish Art of the 17th Century." Ulster Museum, Belfast.

Sept. 6: "The Art of the Book." British Library, London.

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The Night 'the Alarms Went Off' in Quiet Fishing Village

The Associated Press

PEGGY'S COVE, Nova Scotia — By all accounts it was a pleasant evening in the fishing village of Peggy's Cove, with a light wind and medium seas, when a plane crashed into the cold water, leaving a field of floating debris, bodies and jet fuel that stretched over six miles.

"I heard a huge crash, like thunder," said Wilfred Morash, a resident of nearby Blandford. "Then all of a sudden on my scanner the alarms went off and they said a plane had gone down in Peggy's Cove."

Within minutes on Wednesday night, fisherman and local boaters were searching for survivors in the debris and making frantic radio calls to the Halifax

Search and Rescue Center, said a navy spokesman, Tracy Simoneau. Rescuers said the air was thick with the smell of jet fuel, she added.

Soon all available boats from this 200-year-old fishing village, where inhabitants are accustomed to making rescues in the North Atlantic, converged on the site.

John Campbell, 34, was one of the first to rush out, calling on some of his crew and heading to sea aboard his 42-foot (13-meter) whale-watching vessel. Smelling the fuel, he ordered his crew not to smoke. Seat cushions, Styrofoam and bodies littered the water in the orange glow.

Hours later, Mr. Campbell's "So

Much To Sea" vessel still was ferrying rescue and military personnel to a scene that he described over the telephone from his boat as surreal. He could not bring himself to discuss it in detail.

Coast Guard helicopters hovered overhead, and a navy refueling ship, the HMCS Preserver, steamed into the bay. Above the helicopters, a Canadian Navy C-130 Hercules circled, searching the sea for rescue equipment and dropping flares that lit the black water in an orange glow.

Life-jackets, luggage, clothing and papers bobbed in the water, which registered 61 degrees Fahrenheit (16 degrees centigrade). Jet fuel shimmered on the surface.

"It's almost a floating city with the number of boats here," a reporter for the Canadian Broadcasting Corp., Rob Gordon, said by phone from a boat. "They are making repeated calls that they are finding bodies and human remains." The largest piece of debris was a shredded life raft, he said.

On shore, firefighters paced the beach near the crash site. Behind them, more than a dozen ambulances lined up to treat possible survivors and take them to hospitals. They waited in vain. A temporary morgue was set up in nearby Sheerwater.

After rain and choppy seas that made the search for survivors difficult overnight, the sun peeked through over-

cast skies Thursday. Firefighters began walking the rocky shoreline at the first hint of daylight, picking up debris washing ashore.

A Red Cross tent was set up on shore, where a few members of the Canadian armed services and numerous journalists also waited, subdued.

Clapboard houses painted in pastels dot the rocky granite landscape of Peggy's Cove, a popular Nova Scotia tourist town where surf pounding against the rocks sends sprays 30 feet into the air.

Clearly, however, fishing sustains many residents — lobsters pots sat in many yards and a black fishing net had been left to dry in the public parking lot.

large pieces of the plane. Shocked relatives and friends gathered at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York and Connair International Airport in Geneva.

The pilots, identified as Captain Urs Zimmermann, 50, and First Officer Stephan Loew, 36, had issued a final dramatic distress call, "Panne! Panne!" — the French and German for "breakdown" — as they struggled to keep the plane aloft, airline officials reported.

"Panne" is a cry issued only in dire circumstances, Christian Stuessi, Swissair's top MD-11 pilot, told the Reuters news agency.

The cause of the crash was not immediately clear. Swissair is considered to have an excellent safety record, as does the MD-11. The pilots were experienced and skies were clear at the time of the crash.

Authorities were reluctant to speculate about the cause, pending recovery of the plane's flight-data recorders.

The possibility of a terrorist attack leaped to many people's minds, following the recent U.S. bombing of suspected terrorist-related sites in Afghanistan and Sudan. But both Canadian and U.S. officials said that the chances of a criminal or terrorist connection appeared to be small.

At the crash site, Chief Superintendent Steve Duncan of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police said, "There is nothing to indicate at this time any possibility or any suggestion of any criminal act."

The crew had alerted air traffic controllers about the smoke not long after takeoff from Kennedy and asked to be cleared for landing at Logan International Airport in Boston.

But as the extent of the plane's problems became clear, controllers in Moncton, New Brunswick, diverted the plane to Halifax, saying that it was closer.

Witnesses and authorities in the Nova Scotia fishing town of Peggy's Cove, about 30 miles from the capital city of Halifax, said that when the plane passed over the area it was making deep groans or sputtering sounds, followed by a loud thud. Residents flooded emergency phone lines to report the sounds.

The plane disappeared from Moncton radar screens while at an altitude of 8,000 to 10,000 feet (2,483 to 3,048 meters), well below its normal flight altitude of 33,000 feet.

Apparently the pilots dumped the plane's fuel and then attempted to ditch the plane near the mouth of St. Margaret Bay. The impact apparently was brutal.

President Bill Clinton, in Ireland for a state visit, expressed his sympathy for the victims and their families. "We hope for the best and we are deeply grieved," he said.

In Washington, Attorney General Janet Reno said she understood that "all initial information indicates that it was an accident." P.J. Crowley, a White House spokesman, said there was no indication that terrorism was involved.

Several U.S. agencies offered assistance. Ten investigators of the National Transportation Safety Board flew to Halifax. Swissair security experts were en route to the crash site, as were officials of Boeing, which last year took over McDonnell Douglas, maker of the MD-11.

The crash occurred in waters 75 to 160 feet deep. John Maxwell of the Canadian Transportation Board told CNN that those depths were "manageable" and that divers were "very hopeful" of finding the plane's flight data recorders.

Cockpit smoke, airline specialists said, might have originated in an engine with an electrical short-circuit or from a fire in the cargo hold. The crash in May 1996 of a Valujet DC-9 into the Florida Everglades, which killed all 110 aboard, was later traced to a fire caused by oxygen-generating canisters in the cargo hold.



Prime Minister Tony Blair waiting for President Bill Clinton on Thursday at the foot of the steps of the Stormont parliament building in Belfast.

In Ulster, Clinton Encourages Peace

President and Blair Tour Omagh, Meeting Survivors of Deadly Bombing

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

OMAGH, Northern Ireland — At the scene of Northern Ireland's worst terrorist attack, where a car bomb killed 28 people last month, President Bill Clinton of the United States offered condolences Thursday to relatives of the victims.

In a crowded gymnasium in Omagh, Mr. Clinton said: "It's high time to stop the lit of laughter and language being drowned out by bombs and guns and sticks."

A few babies cried in counterpoint to Mr. Clinton's soft voice.

He thanked the people of Northern

Ireland "for standing up in the face of such a soul-searing loss, and restating your determination to walk the road of peace."

With his wife, Hillary Rodham Clinton, at his side, Mr. Clinton spoke to about 500 relatives of the victims. Later he talked privately with a 14-year-old girl who was blinded in the bombing and with her mother, a nurse who was on duty at an Omagh hospital that day.

Mr. Clinton arrived in Northern Ireland from Moscow. He met in Belfast with the leaders of Northern Ireland's new government: David Trimble, a Protestant and first minister of the Northern Ireland Assembly, and his deputy, Seamus Mallon, a Catholic.

On the last stop of his daylong visit, thousands of people cheering and waving American flags greeted Mr. Clinton in the cathedral city of Armagh.

"It is you who have told your leaders that you have longed for peace like never before," Mr. Clinton told an estimated 10,000 people in a city center park.

He said Northern Ireland's achievement in trying to end three decades of sectarian bloodshed was a beacon for other areas of conflict from the Middle

East to the Balkans. "When I go now to other trouble spots," he said, "I point to you as proof that peace is not an idle daydream. For your peace is real. It resonates around the world and echoes in the ears of people hungry for their own to strive in their own countries."

Mr. Clinton's next stop is the Republic of Ireland, where he is to spend two days.

In London, Parliament passed tough new anti-terrorism laws on Wednesday night. The laws were drafted to make it easier for the security forces to suppress armed groups fighting against the latest peace agreements. A similar set of laws was passed in the Irish Parliament.

The laws follow an important decision Wednesday by Sinn Fein, the political arm of the Irish Republican Army, to cooperate in the disarming of paramilitaries.

In Omagh, Mr. and Mrs. Clinton and Prime Minister Tony Blair and his wife, Cherie Blair, walked down Market Street. Outside a bomb-gutted building, they unveiled a plaque memorializing the victims.

The two couples walked past boarded-up shops and stopped to talk to emergency personnel and hospital staff members who were on duty the day of the bombing.

"By killing Catholics and Protestants, young and old, men, women and children, even those about to be born, people from Northern Ireland, the Irish Republic and abroad," Mr. Clinton said, the bombing "galvanized, strengthened and humanized the impulse to peace."

Earlier in the day, Mr. Clinton told an audience of members of the Northern Ireland Assembly and citizens in Belfast that Catholics and Protestants must pull together with "courage and reconcili-

Belfast Turns Spotlight on Mrs. Clinton

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

BELFAST — Hillary Rodham Clinton, opening a playground for Northern Ireland's youngest generation, said schoolchildren here and in the United States were learning difficult lessons about dealing with violence.

"In America, we have many children who, like children of Northern Ireland, also have seen friends and relatives gunned down, because of gang wars or drug problems," Mrs. Clinton said, speaking to Protestant and Roman Catholic pupils seated in the grassy field. "So, they, too, need to learn from what has been done here in Northern Ireland in dealing with the problems of violence."

Mrs. Clinton and Cherie Blair, wife of Prime Minister Tony Blair, embraced each other amid the crowd of children from a Catholic elementary school and from a state school whose students are predominantly Protestant.

Since arriving Wednesday ahead of her husband, Mrs. Clinton has not commented on personal strains caused by the Monica Lewinsky scandal, a fact noted in a front-page headline of a newspaper President Bill Clinton was handed at the airport Thursday when he arrived. "Hillary avoids state of Clinton union," the Independent said.

Mrs. Clinton and Mrs. Blair later sat in the front row of Belfast's Waterfront Hall as their husbands addressed a gathering that included Northern Ireland's new cross-community Assembly and senior politicians from all sides. Mr. Clinton was warmly praised by Mr. Blair and other leaders for his support of the Northern Irish peace process.

In a keynote speech, Mr. Clinton mentioned his wife's name several times and referred to her appearance as star speaker at a women's conference on Wednesday.

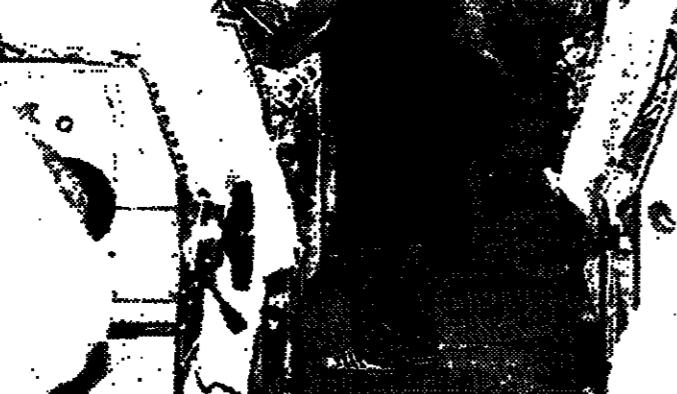
"I salute the women, who have been such a powerful force for peace," he said. "Hillary had a wonderful day yesterday at the conference."

The Irish Times carried a front-page picture of a smiling Mrs. Clinton, rather than the president, in its Thursday issue.

Mrs. Clinton has been increasingly out of the public eye as the pressure grows on the president over his confession on Aug. 17 to an affair with the former White House intern.

But this week's trip to Moscow and to Northern Ireland has provided an opportunity for the couple, who have been holed up at a holiday home in Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, to return to the public scene, while escaping domestic politics.

(AP, AFP)



The floor of Narformsholk, a factory near Moscow that makes cloth for military uniforms, and survives on barter deals.

Tatyana Makarova/The Washington Post

Continued from Page 1

ing them together since Mr. Mallon is a Catholic and Mr. Trimble a Protestant.

The tone of public life here that had long been characterized by a no-compromise, no-surrender attitude began to change with the signing of the accord in April and the campaign for public approval of its terms in a May referendum and for the June election of members of the Assembly that the pact created.

But the incident that has animated the halting process was one that was aimed at stalling it: the bombing by Catholic renegade guerrillas in the town of Omagh on Aug. 15 that killed 28 people and wounded more than 200 others.

The Reverend Michael Keaveny, a priest in the town who buried two of the victims, said he felt that in a horrible way the Omagh bomb could end up being a "catalyst for peace." He said, "I have a feeling this was the end of the violence and the beginning of a new era."

The "new era" that Father Keaveny spoke of picked up particular pace this

week with a series of statements from Gerry Adams, head of Sinn Fein, denouncing the Omagh bombing, saying that the violence in Northern Ireland was "a thing of the past, over, done with and gone" and committing his party to the effort to end the disarming of paramilitary groups.

Mr. Trimble said Thursday that he would talk with anyone who had a proven interest in peace, a statement of significance since he has never spoken directly to Mr. Adams and has threatened to block his taking a position in the new Northern Ireland cabinet that the Sinn Fein vote total entitled him to. His argument was that Mr. Adams had not declared the war over and was not cooperating with plans to disarm guerrillas.

The Sinn Fein leader addressed both complaints in his comments this week, and the expectation is that Mr. Trimble will now seek the approval of his own party's executive council of an end to the party's snubbing of Mr. Adams.

"Even at this early stage, the new institutions and structures are providing a political coherence that Northern Ireland has never known before," he said.

"The ultimate aims of Unionists and republicans are as far apart as ever, but the agreement has already delivered an unexpectedly firm area of common ground."

Mr. Trimble will meet Mr. Adams in a meeting of party leaders that he has called for Monday, and the face-to-face talks that the two men have never had could follow later in the week. Such an agreement would ease widespread fears of a disruptive deadlock over the new Assembly cabinet.

David McKitterick, an author of several reference books on Northern Ireland, wrote a column in The Independent of London on Thursday saying that the violently polarized politics he had witnessed his entire life seemed to have yielded its grip on the province this week.

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"The ultimate aims of Unionists and republicans are as far apart as ever, but the agreement has already delivered an unexpectedly firm area of common ground."

sequences. Not the many businesses whose assets will never be seized, no matter how much they owe their creditors, including the government.

The web of interlocking credits is so intricate that the parties often cannot agree on who owes more. In July, for instance, the government said Gazprom owed 12 billion rubles (then about \$2 billion) in taxes. Gazprom countered that the government's unpaid gas bill was 13 billion rubles.

Many workers have no expectation of a real paycheck. Unpaid wages now amount to some \$1.1 billion. Instead of money, the workers are stuck with whatever the factory or farm is handing out, usually what it produces. The practice is so common now that only the more bizarre substitutes for wages draw notice, such as bras or coffins.

At the Narformsholk factory, barter also reflects the tenacity and ingenuity of Russians who are determined to survive the worst hardships, including ruble-short com-

panies. Not the many businesses whose assets will never be seized, no matter how much they owe their creditors, including the government.

Galina Orlova, the cloth factory's commercial director, says Narformsholk is in business thanks to its highly skilled, resourceful barter department of five engineers. They must work around a problem that would bankrupt any Western factory: Its principal customer, the Defense Ministry, doesn't pay "regularly," as Miss Orlova politely puts it.

Since the 1991 breakup of the Soviet Union, the government has written off the factory's federal taxes in exchange for cloth for military uniforms. Narformsholk's tax bill is less than the value of the fabric it provides, so it receives the remainder of its compensation in government securities, Miss Orlova says.

If the government has disavowed such debt swaps, word hasn't reached Narformsholk. "It's a vicious circle," Miss Orlova notes. "The Ministry of Finance doesn't have money because businesses don't pay their taxes, and businesses don't pay their taxes because they can't produce their products for money."

The factory makes as many as 50 to 60 barter deals a month to hold off its creditors and retain a small profit, Miss Orlova said. The little cash it receives is used to pay workers, though it encourages workers to take their salaries in goods. It also runs its own store, stocked with products taken in through barter deals.

The simplest deal is the straight trade: fabric for chemicals, for instance. But none of the factory's creditors want that much fabric month after month.

Sergei Aleksashenko, first deputy chairman of the Central Bank, said the government had to act because "people have lost confidence in the banks."

"People, influenced by the political situation, or by the bad weather, are saying, 'That's it, we want our money now,'" he said. "No bank can withstand that kind of pressure."

Continued from Page 1

and demand new elections.

Gennadi Zyuganov, the leader of the Communist Party, which dominates the Duma, appeared to soften his opposition to Mr. Chernomyrdin. After calling on Mr. Yeltsin all week to withdraw Mr. Chernomyrdin's nomination, he said: "We will do our best to keep the legislative branch of power intact."

And Gennadi Seleznyov, the Duma's Communist speaker, who had earlier pronounced the nomination doomed, said the Duma wanted to hear the opinion of the upper house of Parliament, traditionally far more supportive of the Kremlin.

Without a confirmed prime minister and a cabinet in place, Russia is even harder-put to try to curtail a financial crisis worse than anything it has faced since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. Mr. Chernomyrdin urged journalists, and the Central Bank, to "stop spreading panic and agitating people."

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Street

stock fell 1.16 percent. Federated parent Federated Stock fell 1.43 percent. Dell sold sales fell 1.3 percent. Dell Computer was the most actively traded U.S. stock, falling 2.3 percent. Technology stocks have been a hub of volatility as investors weighed their long-term potential against a slowdown, demand from Asia.

But Intel rose 1.4 percent as investors sought out companies that would not incur excess earnings. Intel, the world's largest computer chip maker, is expected to show strong profit increases. "The stability of a positive surprise is at its high," said Mark J. Delaney, analyst at Morgan Stanley Dean Witter & Co. (Bloomberg AP)

Its Slump Nic Progress

"There is a lack of differentiation," Mr. Guerra said, lamenting that international investors had sold off securities in response to currencies devalued by Russia and Japan, with little bettering to examine conditions in individual nations of the region.

Mr. Guerra, who spoke in English, said that beneath was a Mexican market that has a sound economy that expanded 4.5 percent in the first half of this year. Despite a drop in oil prices, the Mexican government, which relies on oil for a third of its revenue, posted a small surplus for the first half of the year.

Mexico's foreign trade, however, has been mixed over the last year, with oil and non-oil exports up 10 percent and imports up 12 percent. International markets were relatively stable over the year, with exports of 4.5 billion in the first half of this year, and imports of 4.9 billion.

Mr. Guerra said that Mexico's high interest rates have been a factor in the decline in investment. He said that the central bank has lowered rates from 12.5 percent to 11.5 percent since July.

TIME And Rebuffed

James A. Gorman, chairman and CEO of Salomon Brothers Inc., was rebuffed yesterday by the chairman of the New York Stock Exchange, Mr. Michael S. Milken, when he tried to reiterate his call for a merger of the U.S. and New York Stock Exchanges.

Mr. Milken, chairman of the New York Stock Exchange, told Mr. Gorman that he did not believe a merger was in the best interest of shareholders.

Mr. Gorman, who has called for a merger of the two exchanges, said he will continue to pursue the idea.

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Thursday's 4 P.M. Close
The 2,600 most traded stocks of the day.
Nationwide prices not reflecting late trades elsewhere.

The Associated Press

The Associated Press.

NYSE

Continued on Page 19

Korea Giants to Merge Units

By Don Kirk
International Herald Tribune

SEOUL — Troubled South Korean conglomerates, or *chaebol*, announced a series of divisional mergers Thursday, but analysts said they fell far short of the government's goal of ridding industries of unprofitable entities.

Potentially the most significant deal called for Hyundai Electronics & Industries Co., the country's third-largest semiconductor manufacturer, to merge its semiconductor unit with LG Semicon Co., ranked second after Samsung Electronics.

Executives at the Hyundai and LG parent companies, South Korea's largest and fourth-largest *chaebol*, said the merged operation would equal or surpass Samsung as the global leader in semiconductor production, capable of producing more than 300,000 dynamic random-access memory chips a month.

The future of the deal was cast in doubt, however, when executives of both parent companies said they had not yet agreed on terms for exchange of equity. Hyundai was believed to want to assume basic control, which LG was reluctant to relinquish.

The companies, with debt-to-equity ratios of about 5 to 1, employ about 15,000 people in their semiconductor plants — 8,000 at Hyundai and 7,000 at LG — although LG has a larger capacity.

"The thing that still needs to be addressed is, will Korea shed production capacity?" said Hank Morris, an economic consultant here. "I don't believe the objective is to achieve capacity."

Sohn Byung Doo, deputy chairman of the Federation of Korean Industries, predicted that

the series of mergers announced Thursday would result in combined savings of \$15 billion over five years. Federation officials said more entities were expected to negotiate mergers.

Jwa Sung Hee, president of the Korea Economic Research Institute, disputed such predictions.

"I don't have high expectations in terms of efficiency or economic gains," he said. "The private sector has come up with this plan only to comply with the government's intentions. I am pessimistic about the prospects."

The news media were also skeptical.

"Instead of swapping businesses altogether, the best they came up with was the establishment of consortiums and mergers among competitors," a commentary carried by the Yonhap news agency said.

Hyundai figured in the shuffling more than any other *chaebol*. Hyundai Oil Co. picked up Hanwha Energy Co., a small oil company, after Hanwha failed to find a foreign buyer. The Hanwha Group, before the merger, was on the brink of bankruptcy.

Among other highlights of the mergers were the following:

- Hyundai, Samsung and Daewoo agreed to merge their aircraft parts-making units.

- Hyundai Petrochemical Co. and Samsung General Chemical Co., with refineries in the same complex, agreed to form a consortium.

- Hyundai Precision & Industries Co., Daewoo Heavy Industries and Hanjin Heavy Industries said they would form a separate unit to combine production of railroad cars. Daewoo Heavy Industries is a core company of the Daewoo Group, the third-largest *chaebol*, while

Airbus to Drop China Venture

Agence France-Presse

PARIS — Airbus Industrie and Aviation Industries of China have abandoned plans to jointly develop a 100-seater aircraft, the European aviation consortium said Thursday.

After a feasibility study of the project, in which Singapore Technologies Aerospace Ltd. and Alenia SpA of Italy were also involved, the four partners "have jointly concluded that no solid common basis was found for further developing this new aircraft," Airbus said.

But Airbus and the Chinese company would continue their cooperation "by discussing a new project," Airbus said.

An Airbus spokesman said that Airbus and Aviation Industries decided that "a brand-new 100-seat aircraft doesn't look feasible."

But the two have a "good working relationship which we want to pursue," and "are going to widen the focus of their discussions and look at other options," he said.

The new 100-seat aircraft would have involved about \$2 billion in investment, aeronautics experts said, and was designed to compete with Boeing Co.'s new B717-200.

Hanjin Heavy Industries is part of the Hanjin Group, the sixth-largest *chaebol*.

Korea Heavy Industries, a state-run conglomerate, will acquire a unit of Hyundai Heavy Industries that makes power generators and a division of Samsung Heavy Industries that makes ship engines and boilers.

Hong Kong Shifts the Rules

By Philip Segal
International Herald Tribune

HONG KONG — The Hong Kong Monetary Authority, fresh from a record \$12.5 billion buying spree aimed at supporting stock prices here, declared itself exempt Thursday from rules requiring disclosure of major ownership in local companies.

Based on the record stock market volume last Friday, brokers estimate that the monetary authority may have breached the 10 percent level in some of Hong Kong's most important companies. This week, the monetary authority confirmed that it owned almost 9 percent of the banking group HSBC Holdings Ltd., Hong Kong's largest stock. Analysts said the government made this disclosure because HSBC also is traded in London and authorities there would grant no exemption on disclosure.

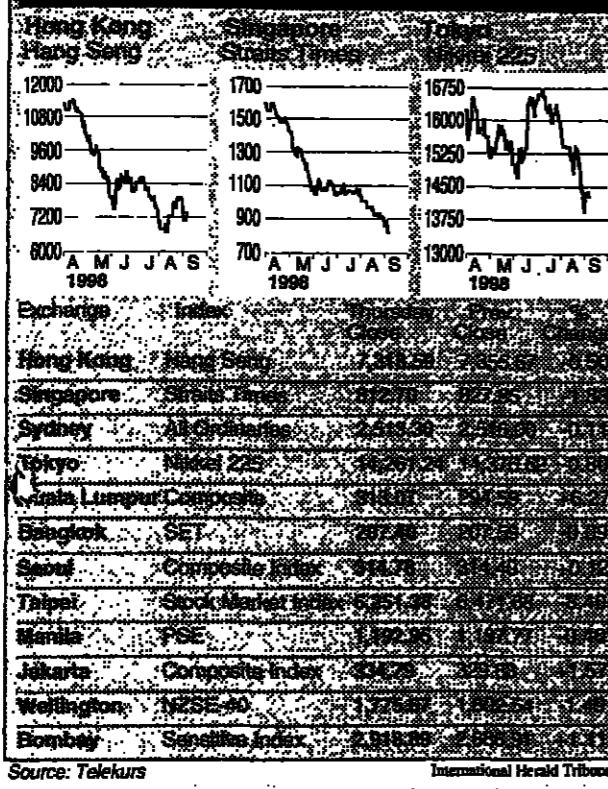
A monetary authority spokesman told the South China Morning Post that disclosing share ownership might impair the authority's ability to deal with against currency speculators, who have used profits made by borrowing stocks and selling them to attack the Hong Kong dollar.

Some analysts said it was contradictory for a government to intervene and say it was doing so to protect the integrity of a free market.

"Now the situation is where 50 percent of deposits in your currency are controlled by a bank you own," Eugene Galbraith, a managing director at ABN-AMRO Asia Ltd., said. "You're a laissez-faire government, but you want the government to play ball."

He called the monetary authority's self-exemption "an ominous first response," adding: "I don't know of any market where the executive branch per se has gotten so involved."

Investor's Asia



Very briefly:

• Matsushita Battery Industrial Co. has developed the world's thinnest lithium battery — 0.5 millimeter (less than .02 of an inch) — which is designed for use in electronic wallets, remote controls, memory cards, integrated-circuit cards and other devices.

• Daewoo Motors (India) Ltd., which is 92 percent owned by Daewoo Corp. of Korea, unveiled two new models of 19-passenger buses even as a drop in demand is forcing other commercial vehicle makers to slash production.

• Japan's nonbank lenders' debts at financial institutions fell 3.5 percent in the year ended March 31, indicating that banks are having difficulty removing bad and risky loans from their books, the think tank Teikoku Databank said.

• China's economic growth target of 8 percent for 1998 "will be achieved" in spite of floods and the Asian financial crisis, said Qiu Xiaohua, a spokesman for the State Statistics Bureau. He said the floods would cause a boom in construction as devastated towns rebuild.

Reuters, Bloomberg, AFP

FIREWALLS: Now Undone

Continued from Page 1

speculation that he may soon be arrested for sedition.

A senior Clinton administration official called the turn of events in Malaysia — a country where firms like Intel, Motorola and Matsushita have built huge factories — "a tragedy."

Others said it was the inevitable clash between the power of government and the power of markets, and they predicted that Mr. Mahathir's effort to isolate Malaysia from world financial markets would be a spectacular failure.

Mr. Mahathir has always ranked among the most vocal critics of what he views as Western efforts to dominate Asia, and in brighter times he was a leading advocate of promoting "Asian values." But the Asian values debate was largely about cultural and legal issues.

The current argument, while couched in terms of IMF plans and currency conversions, is an offshoot of that debate. In Russia, Malaysia and Japan, the United States is insisting on reforms that would essentially give power to investors to move their money across borders at will instead of to governments.

Mr. Rubin has cast this choice in stark terms: countries that try to interfere with the freedom of markets will be cut off by international investors and starved for lack of international capital. His speech and President Bill Clinton's stiffly worded speech in Moscow on Tuesday make it clear that the United States and the IMF will only aid countries that adopt reforms along the lines the IMF has prescribed.

"This is the first time Rubin has had to face a series of political revolts to his plans," a White House official said.



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Thursday's 4 P.M.
The 1,000 most traded National Market securities
in terms of dollar value, updated twice a year.
The Associated Press

NYSE

Thursday's 4 P.M. Close (Continued)

INTERNATIONAL Herald Tribune SPORTS

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1998

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WORLD ROUNDUP

Jerry West to Stay With the Lakers

BASKETBALL Jerry West, who had pondered quitting as Los Angeles Lakers executive vice president, is staying on and getting a four-year contract extension.

Press reports said West had agreed to the renewal at \$3.5 million a year. (AP)

Is Belle a Free Agent?

BASEBALL Albert Belle, the Chicago White Sox outfielder, might unexpectedly become eligible for free agency, thanks to \$7.5 million in secret payments made to Gary Sheffield by the Florida Marlins and the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Under a special covenant in Belle's \$35 million, five-year contract, special provisions kick in if his contract is not among the top three by average value.

With the addendum to Sheffield's contract, Belle falls to a tie for fourth with Sammy Sosa at \$10 million. (AP)

Rice Gets \$36 Million Deal

FOOTBALL Jerry Rice signed a six-year, \$36 million contract with the San Francisco 49ers on Wednesday in a restructuring that made him the league's highest-paid receiver. (AP)

Tyson Denies Charge

BOXING A man who says he was kicked in the groin by Mike Tyson following a traffic accident filed an assault charge against the former heavyweight champion.

Richard Hardick says Tyson kicked him after his car rear-ended a Mercedes driven by Tyson's wife, Monica, on Monday. Tyson denied kicking Hardick. Monica Tyson backed up her husband's story. (AP)

Vietnam Gains Cup Final

SOCER Vietnam beat defending champion Thailand, 3-0, Thursday night to earn a spot in the Tiger Cup final against Singapore, a 2-1 winner over Indonesia.

Indonesia and Thailand will meet in the consolation game. They played in a bizarre game Monday, when both tried to lose because they did not want to face host Vietnam. (Reuters)

The Crocodile Incentive

SWIMMING A coach in Darwin, Australia, planned to spice up his training sessions by putting a 10-foot (3-meter) crocodile in the pool.

Mark Davies' plan was foiled when the reptile park that was to supply the crocodile backed down. Davies said he planned to drug the crocodile and wire its jaws shut before putting it in the pool with his swimmers, aged seven to 20.

"I had told them that to help them swim faster they should imagine that a (10-foot) crocodile was chasing them, so I thought, because our sponsor is Crocodylus Park, we might be able to actually get a real crocodile," Davies said. (AP)

Hingis Beats Majoli in Straight Sets

Venus Williams Also Triumphs as Attention Focuses on Wardrobe

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

NEW YORK — Martina Hingis, the world No. 1, beat Iva Majoli of Croatia, 7-6 (7-4), 6-0, on Thursday in a second-round match held over from the previous night. The reigning champion took 65 minutes to advance.

Hingis beat Majoli in straight sets for the fourth straight time since the Croatian won her only Grand Slam title in Paris 15 months ago. After having trouble with her serve in the first set, Hingis pulled it together in the second set, holding Majoli to 12 points.

Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, the French Open champion and 1994 U.S. Open winner, needed one more game and 12 more minutes to outrun Fabiola Zuluaga, the 129th-ranked Colombian, 6-3, 6-2.

Amanda Coetzer of South Africa, the 13th seed, a pint-sized power-hitter, beat both Williams and Sanchez Vicario back to the locker-room after a 55-minute, 6-0, 6-2, rout of another qualifier, Raduca Sandu of Romania, fiancée of the French Open champion Carlos Moya.

Williams, 18, playing in only her second U.S. Open, began by showing off a rapidly developing serve-and-volley

game. With her quickness, long legs and reach, Williams played a maturing net game that included a deft touch on drop volleys. It also did not hurt to start the points with her huge serve, the fastest of which was timed at 117 miles per hour (188 kilometers per hour).

Williams stormed through the first set in 22 minutes with the loss of just 10

U.S. OPEN TENNIS

points and only two on her serve. The second set was a bit more competitive, before the 18-year-old American decided to end it by running off the final three games.

"She played better as the match went on," Williams said. "We had better rallies, and I appreciate that very much."

Williams broke out the second of her seven new outfits — a provocative skin tight, lime-green sleeveless dress with a cutout across the middle of her back — but carrying a small black logo promoting the WTA Tour and its chief sponsor, the software company Corel. The patch, about 2 inches square, was on the left shoulder strap of Williams' lime-green tennis dress.

The tour fined Williams \$100 after she won her first-round match without the logo, and said that the fines would

increase to \$25,000 if she did not wear the patch.

Reebok, Williams' uniform and sneaker supplier, said the patch violated its contract with Williams, which bans logos other than its own.

The only exception is for players under contract to Nike, which has a no-patch policy for its athletes that predates the WTA rule and was given a special exemption, the association said.

Williams said she "generally" wore the patch. Asked why she had deviated in the first round, she said, "Deviation is common among humans."

In the men's singles, Carol Kucera, the No. 9 seed from Slovakia beat Jerome Golmard of France, 7-5, 6-3, 6-0.

The men's runner-up last year, the sixth-seeded Greg Rusedski of Britain, saved a match point as he outlasted Bohdan Ulrich, 4-6, 6-3, 4-6, 6-2, 7-5.

The Open was running behind after torrential rain whipped by high winds canceled the evening session Wednesday, postponing matches featuring Hingis and Pete Sampras.

The rain may have saved Alex Corretja of Spain, seeded No. 7. He was trailing to Gianluca Pozzi of Italy when their match was halted. Pozzi, 33, the oldest man in the field, was leading 6-2, 3-6, 5-2, 30-30. (AP, AFP, NYT)



Arantxa Sanchez Vicario returning a backhand shot to Fabiola Zuluaga.

McGwire at 59 Homers and Counting, With Sosa at 56

Only Ruth and Maris Ahead Now

By Ross Newhan
Los Angeles Times Service

MIAMI — Mark McGwire continued to climb baseball's home run ladder two giant steps at a time as he hammered his 58th and 59th homers of this remarkable season, leaving only Babe Ruth and Roger Maris ahead of him.

McGwire — with 12 home runs in his last 16 games — hit a pair of homers for the second consecutive night Wednesday as the St. Louis Cardinals routed the Florida Marlins, 14-4.

The two Tuesday wiped out Hack Wilson's 68-year-old National League record. The latest pair moved him ahead of the players who had hit 58 in a season: Jimmie Foxx in 1932, Hank Greenberg in 1938 and McGwire himself last year.

The only players to have hit more home runs in a season are Ruth, who hit 59 in 1921 and 60 in 1927, and Maris, who hit the record 61 in 1961.

McGwire, who has 23 games remaining, is on a pace to hit 69. His last seven home runs have come on the night or the day after a home run by Sammy Sosa, who now has 56, but he continued to insist that he can focus only on his own task and is not motivated by what Sosa does.

"It astounds me how strong he is in the mind," said Tony La Russa, the St. Louis manager. "He is stronger mentally than he is physically."

"I've managed Cy Young winners and MVPs, but what separates Mark is that he's been under this pressure, been asked these questions, from day one of spring training. There's been all this anticipation and expectation, and he keeps handling it, responding."

On Wednesday, feeling that the clubhouse had become overcrowded with reporters before the game, McGwire

went to La Russa, who announced that he was calling a meeting and closing the clubhouse. It was generally assumed that the clubhouse closure was designed to give McGwire some space.

But McGwire was again loose and relaxed in the postgame news conference, repeating that he wished all players could experience what he is experiencing and that he continues to have fun with it.

It was no fun for two Florida pitchers, Brian Edmondson and Ron Stanifer, on Wednesday night.

McGwire golfer a sinking slider from Edmondson into the upper deck in left field in the seventh inning, a 497-foot (151-meter) shot that neither pitcher nor hitter could quite believe, considering that the pitch was about 3 inches (8 centimeters) off the ground when McGwire hit it. His 458-foot drive to left-center off Stanifer in the eighth also came on a slider, but one that was up and in his zone.

"That one I should have hit the way I did," McGwire said, "but I kind of

amazed myself that I was able to golf that first one out. The next time I came to the plate, their catcher said, 'How the heck did you hit that pitch?' I said, 'I have no idea.'"

Chasing the Record

Home run tally for two contenders to break the season record of 61 homers set in 1961 by Roger Maris (left).

MARK McGWIRE

59 2-for-3 with two homers vs. Marlins on Wednesday

Maria with 23 games left: 54

59 2-for-3 with two homers vs. Marlins on Wednesday

Maria with 23 games left: 54

Cubs' Slugger Ties Wilson Record

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

SAMMY SOSA did not go into his standard trot after hitting his 36th home run of the season, which until Tuesday would have tied a 68-year-old National League record.

"The way I hit it, it was a line drive," Sosa said after a 4-2 victory over the Cincinnati Reds Wednesday afternoon. "I thought it was a double."

But when things are going well — and they certainly are for the Chicago Cubs' right fielder — that line drive

BASEBALL ROUNDUP

traveled far enough to make it into the first row of bleachers in Chicago.

The home run equaled Hack Wilson's team record of 56 set in 1930.

ASTROS 4, BRAVES 1 Randy Johnson won his first matchup with Greg Maddux as Houston hit three home runs in Atlanta. Johnson (6-1) struck out 10 and gave up only four hits in eight innings. He fanned 10 or more for the 99th time, second in history to Nolan Ryan's 215.

ASTROS 4, PADRES 1 Mike Piazza finished up a big West Coast trip with another home run in New York's victory in San Diego. Piazza homered for the second straight night in the nine-game trip, hit five homers and drove in 12 runs.

Giants 12, Expos 3 Barry Bonds and Jeff Kent delivered the big hits as San Francisco beat visiting Montreal. Bonds went 3-for-3, including his fourth homer in four games.

Diamondbacks 2, Pirates 1 Tony Batista hit a tying home run in the ninth inning, then tripled and scored in the 11th in Pittsburgh as expansion Arizona won its team-record fifth in a row.

Brewers 8, Rockies 4 Jeff Cirillo, Dave Nilsson and Jeremy Burnitz hit two-run homers as Milwaukee beat visiting

Colorado.

DODGERS 6, PHILLIES 0 Carlos Perez pitched a two-hitter to win for the first time since he was traded to Los Angeles on July 31 as the Dodgers beat visiting Philadelphia.

IN AMERICAN LEAGUE GAMES:

Angels 13, Indians 5 Darrin Erstad strained his left hamstring while running out a single in the first inning as Anaheim in Cleveland. The first baseman was on the disabled list from Aug. 4 to Aug. 19 with a hamstring injury — also sustained against Cleveland.

Erstad is batting .303 with 19 home runs and 79 runs batted in.

Athletics 2, Yankees 0 In New York, Oakland's Gil Heredia limited the Yankees to five hits in 7 1/2 innings to delay New York's attempt to reach 100 victories on the earliest date in major league history. The 1906 Chicago Cubs and the 1954 Cleveland Indians both won their 100th games on Sept. 9.

Red Sox 7, Mariners 3 Nomar Garciaparra hit a ninth-inning grand slam to join Mark McGwire as one of five players to hit 30 homers in each of their first two seasons.

White Sox 3, Orioles 2 John Snyder pitched seven innings of three-hit ball in Baltimore as Chicago extended the Orioles' losing streak to 10 games.

Tigers 5, Rangers 3 Ivan Rodriguez snapped a 1-for-11 slump with two hits, including a two-run homer, in Texas' victory in Detroit.

Devil Rays 4, Twins 1 Quinton McCracken extended his hitting streak to 15 games and doubled home the go-ahead run in the seventh as Tampa Bay won in Minnesota.

Blue Jays 5, Royals 0 Kelvin Escobar limited Kansas City to four hits in 8 1/2 innings to help visiting Toronto extend its winning streak to six. (W.P., AP)

SCOREBOARD

BASEBALL

MAJOR LEAGUE STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION

WEST DIVISION

NATIONAL LEAGUE

WESTERN DIVISION

AMERICAN LEAGUE

INTERNATIONAL

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP

WORLD BASEBALL CLASSIC

WORLD SOFTBALL CLASSIC

WORLD SERIES

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

WORLD CUP

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

SPORTS

How the NFL Teams Shape Up for the New Season

After Training, Trading and Drafting, Sunday Brings First Test for 29 Franchises Chasing Champion Denver

Washington Post Service**NFC CENTRAL****Chicago Bears**

1997: 4-12.

In this offseason, the Bears released two former first-round draft picks—DE Alonso Spelman and RB Rashawn Salaam—and did not re-sign six other players who opened 1997 as starters. Rookie RB Curtis Enis finally signed after missing almost one month of training camp, but signing veteran RB Ban Morris (774 yards rushing) means he will not have to be rushed. An entire season from WR Curtis Conway (average of 58 receptions, 7 TDs in past three seasons) would do.

Detroit Lions

1997: 9-7. (lost to Bucs in wild-card game).

The pressure is on QB Scott Mitchell. He is 27-3 as a starter for the Lions, including 0-2 in the playoffs. But he still has RB Barry Sanders (2,053 yards rushing, the second-best single-season total in NFL history) and WRs Herman Moore (104 receptions for 1,293 yards) and Johnnie Morton (80 for 1,057). Sanders needs 222 yards to reach 14,000 for his career and Moore and Morton will get a new running mate, NR Germane Crowell. The defense will have at least three new starters after ranking 14th in the NFL last season.

Green Bay Packers

1997: 13-3. (lost to Broncos in Super Bowl).

It is doubtful that rival NFL coaches missed the Broncos running for 179 yards against the Packers in the Super Bowl. The Packers traded their 1998 second-round draft choice to draft the 6-foot-5, 296-pound DE Vonnie Holliday, whom they hope can help solidify the line. However, Green Bay's offense could be good enough to overshadow any defensive shortcomings.

Minnesota Vikings

1997: 9-7. (lost to 49ers in playoffs).

The Vikings moved John Randle (15.5 sacks) from tackle to end toward the end of last season, and they went on a three-game winning streak. Randle could play both positions this season. DE Stalyn Colinet's improvement made Smith (13.5 sacks combined over the past two seasons) expendable. The gamble on rookie WR Randy Moss looks for now like it has paid off. And he joins a receiving corps that already includes Cris Carter and Jake Reed, who each had 1,000-yard receiving seasons in 1997. The health of QB Brad Johnson is vital. He injured his neck last season and apparently has not regained all the strength in his throwing hand.

Tampa Bay Buccaneers

1997: 10-6. (lost to Pack in playoffs).

The doubts surrounding coach Tony Dungy during a 1-8 start in 1996—his rookie season—have vanished. Since then, the Buccaneers have won 16 of 25, including their first playoff victory since 1979. The defense, ranked third in the NFL last season, had a front four that combined for 36.5 sacks.

But the Buccaneers' offense was 29th in the league and its passing was 30th, despite a club-record 21 touchdown passes from QB Trent Dilfer and nearly 1,000 yards rushing from rookie of the year Warrick Dunn. The Bucs still need to find a way to beat Green Bay; they lost three games to the Packers last season without giving up more than 21 points.

NFC WEST**Atlanta Falcons**

1997: 7-9. Last season RB Jamal Anderson

rushed for 1,002 yards, QB Chris Chandler was the NFC's second-rated passer (202 of 343 for 2,692 yards passing, 20 TDs, 7 INTs), and the team won six of its final eight games. In all, the Falcons were 7-3 with Chandler, 0-6 when he missed part or all of a game because of injuries. Atlanta's defense was second in the NFL with 55 sacks last season—12 by DE Chuck Smith, 10.5 by DT Travis Hall.

Carolina Panthers

1997: 7-9.

The defense will start at least five players who were not on the team last season. The biggest is DT Sean Gilbert, whose seven-year, \$46.5 million contract was the highest ever signed by a defensive player. Former Steelers all-pro LBs Kevin Greene (10.5 sacks) and Greg Lloyd are returned. QB Kerry Collins must improve over last season, when he totaled 2,124 yards passing, 11 TDs and 21 interceptions.

New Orleans Saints

1997: 6-10.

Coach Mike Ditka pledged to be calmer this season, but he has not started well. He got in a shouting match with LB Andre Royal after the linebacker's first practice. Royal (73 tackles, five sacks last season) was later traded to the Colts. New Orleans' blitz-happy defense led the NFL with 58 sacks last season, and the club signed one of Carolina's best defenders in S Chad Cota (117 tackles). The season must start well—the Saints do not face a team that made the playoffs last season until New England in Week 5.

St. Louis Rams

1997: 5-11.

Mike White, the Raiders' coach from

1997 through '96, will minor fumble-prone QB Tony Banks (3,254 yards passing, 14 TDs, 13 INTs). While might be more help if he could play offensive line: In Banks's 30 career games, he has been sacked 91 times. WR Isaac Bruce (56 receptions) is Banks's favorite target. The Rams believe they bolstered their running game by signing RB Greg Hill (350 yards rushing), but WR Eddie Kennison slumped from 54 catches as a rookie to 25 last season.

San Francisco 49ers

1997: 13-3 (lost to Packers in NFC championship).

QB Steve Young continues to put up superb numbers, but he has not played an entire season since 1994. The 49ers covered themselves by signing QB Ty Detmer. But the right side of the offensive line is a mess: Kirk Scafford, who started at tackle last season, may be forced to retire because of a bulging disk in his neck, while starting G Kevin Gogan has injured his neck and back. On defense, the club added CB Antonio Langham and LB Winfield Tubbs (160 tackles), but lost 27 of its 54 sacks.

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Washington Redskins

1997: 8-7-1.

Seeking to make the playoffs for the first time since 1992, the Redskins have tried to shore up the league's 28th-ranked rushing defense by adding NFL defensive player of the year DT Dana Stubblefield and DJ Dan Wilkinson. But now that the team is anchored inside, DE Rick Owens's injury could leave them vulnerable outside. But the linebackers and secondary remain strong, so improved run defense should mean improvement overall. The offensive line does not seem much better than it was last season, when the offense was ordinary. That will not make the lives of QB Gus Frerotte and RB Terry Allen any easier. Frerotte, who is trying to come back from a mediocre season, will be further handicapped if WR Michael Westbrook remains a disappointment.

NFC EAST**Arizona Cardinals**

1997: 4-12.

Despite a 4-12 finish, season ticket sales are up by 3,000. That's because the Cardinals appear to have one of the NFL's best defenses, led by Andre Wadsworth, DT Eric Swann, DE Simeon Rice and CB Aeneas Williams. Their rushing offense, however, was last in the NFL last season. It will be helped by RB Adrian Murrell, who had consecutive 1,000-yard rushing seasons with the Jets, and RB Mario Bates (the Saints' leading rusher from 1994 to '96). It's a good thing second-year OB Jake Plummer is mobile; his line, which gave up 78 sacks a year ago (second-most in NFL history), has one new starter.

Dallas Cowboys

1997: 6-10.

Coach Chan Gailey, who had been the Steelers' offensive coordinator, replaced Barry Switzer, but that does not mean he will get a grace period. The team's stars are getting older and the organization is in a hurry to forget last season's disaster, not to mention continuing off-field problems. The offensive line seems refocused.

There finally is a quality backup for RB Emmitt Smith—RB Chris Warren. Dallas's pass defense was the NFL's best last season despite intercepting only seven passes.

New York Giants

1997: 10-5-1 (lost to Vikings in playoffs).

The youth movement resisted by former coach Dan Jim Reeves flourished last season under coach of the year Dan Fassel. The league's youngest defense forced 44 turnovers and had 54 sacks (14 by DE Michael Strahan), but this season's schedule is tougher. And losing LB Corey Miller and injured CB Jason Schorn will hurt. But the Giants have a lot of depth on defense. QB Danny Kanell went 7-2-1 as a starter last season, and the passing game should improve with WR Ike Hilliard's return from a neck injury and the drafting of WRs Joe Jurevicius and Bryan Alfird. RBs Charles Way (698 yards),

Philadelphia Eagles

1997: 6-9-1.

Coming off the team's worst season since 1986, coach Ray Rhodes—the 1995 coach of the year—faces a critical year. QB Bobby Hoyer went from third-string to starter last season and finished with 1,573 yards passing, 11 TDs and 6 INTs. The QB job is his from the beginning this season. With RB Ricky Watters's departure, the running game primarily is in 3-foot-9, 187-pound RB Charle

Gartner's hands. But FB Kevin Turner (48 receptions) also should get his share of work. DE Mike Mamula (53 tackles, four sacks) will miss the season after tearing ligaments in his right knee. That makes a potentially tough early schedule look even more daunting.

Washington Redskins

1997: 8-7-1.

Seeking to make the playoffs for the first time since 1992, the Redskins have tried to shore up the league's 28th-ranked rushing defense by adding NFL defensive player of the year DT Dana Stubblefield and DJ Dan Wilkinson. But now that the team is anchored inside, DE Rick Owens's injury could leave them vulnerable outside. But the linebackers and secondary remain strong, so improved run defense should mean improvement overall. The offensive line does not seem much better than it was last season, when the offense was ordinary. That will not make the lives of QB Gus Frerotte and RB Terry Allen any easier. Frerotte, who is trying to come back from a mediocre season, will be further handicapped if WR Michael Westbrook remains a disappointment.

AFC EAST**Buffalo Bills**

1997: 6-10.

QB Jim Harbaugh and coach Ted Marchibroda, who worked together in Indianapolis. Without Alexander, the health of WR Michael Jackson and WR/KR Jerome Lewis is important, as is the development of Johnson, who has tremendous speed. Potts and a line led by all-pro Ts Jonathan Ogden and Orlando Brown should be able to clear the way for RB Eric Rutherford and RB Jay Graham. Defensively, the Bills look like they will be able to rush passers.

Cincinnati Bengals

1997: 7-9, fourth in division.

Cincinnati signed free agent QB Neil O'Donnell to a four-year, \$17 million deal, and he proceeded to displace Jeff Blake, who had figured to start with the departure of Esiason to "Monday Night Football." O'Donnell will have quality WRs in Darrell Scott and Carl Pickens.

RB Corey Dillon (1,129 yards rushing) had an exciting rookie season last year, including a 546-yard rushing game. Meanwhile, the defense appears to have been upgraded considerably.

Jacksonville Jaguars

1997: 11-5 (lost to Broncos in playoffs).

Mark Brunell was the AFC's No. 1-rated quarterback last season despite suffering an early knee injury. He is healthy this season, as is one of the league's best receiving tandems, Keenan McCardell (85 receptions for 1,164 yards) and Jimmy Smith (82 for 1,324). The offensive line, led by T Tony Boselli, is superb. A big question is: Who carries the ball? The defense should improve from last season, when it suffered numerous injuries and was ranked 23rd.

Pittsburgh Steelers

1997: 11-5 (lost to Broncos in AFC championship).

Kordell Stewart stopped being "Slash," and started being a full-time quarterback. Like all second-year starters, he needs to grow in consistency and decision-making after a sometimes spectacular, sometimes frustrating season. But he has the NFL's top rushing offense, which features RB Jerome Bettis (1,665 yards) and all-pro C Dermontti Dawson. The defensive front seven again looks tough after leading the league in rushing defense. The biggest question is in the secondary.

Tennessee Oilers

1997: 8-8.

After practicing in Nashville, but playing home games in Memphis, the Oilers have yet another new home—Vanderbilt Stadium in Nashville. They also have a

new pair of talented wide receivers in Yance, Thigpen and Tyson, who will be a key to improving what was the league's second-worst passing offense. QB Steve McNair (2,665 yards passing, 674 yards rushing) should run less and RB Eddie George (1,399 yards, seven TDs) should run more. Gary Walker and Kenny Holmes are strong on the defensive front (seven sacks each). Pro Bowl safety Blaine Bishop anchors the secondary (81 tackles).

AFC WEST**Denver Broncos**

1997: 12-4. (Won Super Bowl).

It is hard to improve a team that had the NFL's top-ranked offense and the AFC's top-ranked defense and also won the Super Bowl. Terrell Davis (AFC-best 1,750 yards rushing) should excel again behind an undersized offensive line. TB Shannon Sharpe (72 receptions for 1,107 yards) continues to be one of the league's best and WR Rod Smith (70 receptions for 1,180 yards, 12 TDs) got a six-year contract extension. The defensive line will remain strong with Neil Smith and Maa Tanuvasa (eight sacks each).

Kansas City Chiefs

1997: 13-3, (lost to Broncos in playoffs).

Derrick Alexander (65 receptions for 1,009 yards with Ravens) gives Kansas City two 1,000-yard receivers (Andre Rison had 1,092) and reunites Alexander with former Michigan teammate, QB Eric Grabs. New offensive coordinator Jimmy Ray probably will open the offense. LB Derrick Thomas should have more lanes to quarterback with the additions of ends Chester McClellon and Leslie O'Neal. The secondary is one of the league's best.

Oakland Raiders

1997: 4-12.

The Raiders had the NFL's worst defense last season, and they lost Chester McClellon, who will be replaced by Daren Russell. But their hope for further reinforcement from second-round draft choice Leon Bender took a tragic turn when Bender died of a seizure. CB Charles Woodson, seventh Heisman Trophy winner to play for the Raiders. Offensively, things look promising with QB Jeff George (3,917 yards, 29 TDs, 9 INTs), WR Tim Brown (104 receptions for 1,408 yards), RB Napoleon Kaufman (1,294 yards rushing) and TE Rickey Dudley getting to work with Gruden, who had been the Eagles' offensive coordinator.

San Diego Chargers

1997: 4-12.

Ryan Leaf, Ryan Leaf, Ryan Leaf. Having taken Washington State to the Rose Bowl, the quarterback takes over an offense that was the AFC's worst. Two of the team's top three pass-catchers from last season are gone, but Leaf has RB Natrone Means and a reworked line that now has several former Super Bowl players and looks much better than the one that allowed 51 sacks last season.

Defensively, LB Junior Seau (nine sacks) and talented strong safety Rodney Harrison (132 tackles) will lead the way, but the Chargers need more pressure from the defensive line (league-low 27 sacks, league-worst 425 points allowed), especially from DEs William Fuller and Marco Coleman.

Seattle Seahawks

1997: 8-8.

Warren Moon, who will be 42 in November, threw for 3,678 yards and 25 TDs last season, then got into a protracted contract dispute. Now he will try to take the team to its first playoff game since 1988. That would be nice, given the millions owner Paul Allen has paid to free agents and draft picks. WR Joey Gallaway (72 receptions for 1,049 yards and 12 TDs) almost makes up for the lack of depth at that spot.

DENNIS THE MENACE**PEANUTS**

HEY, MANAGER...NEXT YEAR I THINK I'LL PLAY FOR A DIFFERENT TEAM...

I'M TIRED OF LOSING ALL THE TIME...

I SUPPOSE YOU'RE GOING TO PLAY FOR SOMEONE ELSE, TOO...

I PLAY FOR WHOEVER OWNS THE SUPPER DISH...

I LA DA DEE DEE DA I THINK I'LL GET A BUCKET - DUM DOO - I JUST WANT A BUCKET TO HOLD SOME STUFF...

YUR TURN.

GARFIELD

DON'T THROW THAT BRICK AT ME...

NO PROBLEM...

AND DON'T DROP IT ON MY FOOT...

NOW WE HAVE A PROBLEM...

WHY DO YOU DRINK? TO FORGET?

FORGET WHAT?

JUMBLE

POSTCARD

*A Sign of the Times?*By Amanda Hesser
New York Times Service

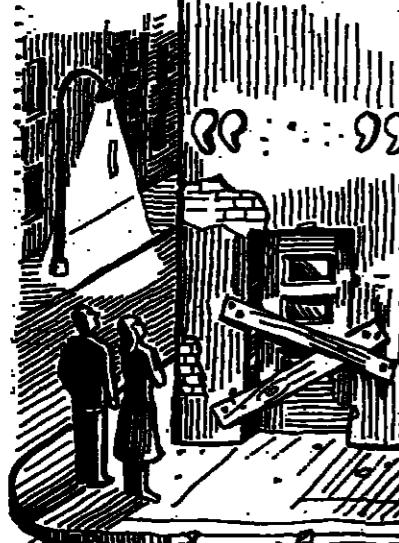
NEW YORK—When you arrive at Church Street between Franklin and White in search of 2 Seven 7, you are presented with a number of choices. There is a restaurant on the corner, lights aglow, but its sign says "Arqua."

There are black doors set off by tall columns that look like the entrance to a boutique under renovation. There are two shuttered shops. And there is, in fact, a door marked "277." Many people press the button at this door; but it buzzes some unfortunate tenant's apartment.

Which place is actually 2 Seven 7? The one behind the black doors. James Di Zazzo, an owner of this restaurant-of-the-moment, explained the situation. "I just chose not to put a sign because it's kind of cool and it's kind of the vibe of downtown New York."

"Who needs a doorman, when no one can find the door?"

Just when it seemed that the city's scene restaurants had



worked all the angles—from secret reservation numbers to exclusive back rooms—they have come up with another doozy. It is actually a simple psychological tactic: make something hard to find, and people, at least Manhattan's voracious scene-seekers, will want it all the more.

Never mind that the restaurant in question may offer only so-so service and mediocre food. Those who manage to find the place are in the know, and that's all that matters.

A few of New York's most popular restaurants, like Chez Es Saads, Moomba and Lot 61, are practically blank walls facing pavement. Others, display the tiniest, most cryptic variations on a sign—like the banner bearing a circular symbol that is supposed to lead you to Bond Street, a sushi restaurant in the East Village. Or the three blocks painted with vertical black bars that mark the entrance to Union

Pacific on East 22d Street, a restaurant that takes its understated decor seriously.

What could the Union Pacific symbol mean? Believe it or not, the blocks represent mahjong tiles, and the bars are meant to be read as the numeral 1—11 is the street address. Alert the mailman.

Even more esoteric, Blue Ribbon Sushi at 119 Sullivan Street displays a concrete relief with three kanji, the characters representing "Blue Ribbon Sushi" in Japanese. Which is helpful for all those people who can read kanji.

At its sister restaurant, Blue Ribbon, the name is painted in small print on the door, but for a long time, said Eric Bromberg, an owner, customers thought its name was "Oysters," which is what the blaring neon sign in the window says. (Experience hasn't moved Bromberg; his latest restaurant, Blue Ribbon Bakery, has no sign at all.)

New Yorkers are pretty savvy about what's new," said Amy Sacco, the owner of Lot 61, at 550 West 21st Street. "I think they like not knowing. There's an element of excitement to not knowing." Outside her restaurant is what she calls a "stamp" with the name Lot 61. "It's like you can't see it," she said. "Nobody ever finds it."

Instead, they ask someone at the taxi garage down the street or at the Opera, a nearby nightclub. "They say they're a directory service for Lot 61," she added. So what's the point? Cultivating mystique, after all, can go only so far. "I think it is a marketing ploy, more than anything else," said Adam Tihany, the designer of such restaurants as Le Cirque 2000 and Jean Georges. "Especially in a place like New York, where people will find any excuse so you can talk about it."

Or it could be the antithesis of the in-your-face approaches you get at places like Planet Hollywood and the All-Star Cafè. Restaurateurs who disdain signage, of course, claim to have a higher purpose. Di Zazzo admits that not having a sign at 2 Seven 7 is a hassle for his customers—some of them celebrities like John F. Kennedy Jr. and Amber Valetta. But, he said, "I do it so they can feel a little more secure and a little more isolated in New York City."

Of course, that raises the question: If that's what you're after, why go out at all?

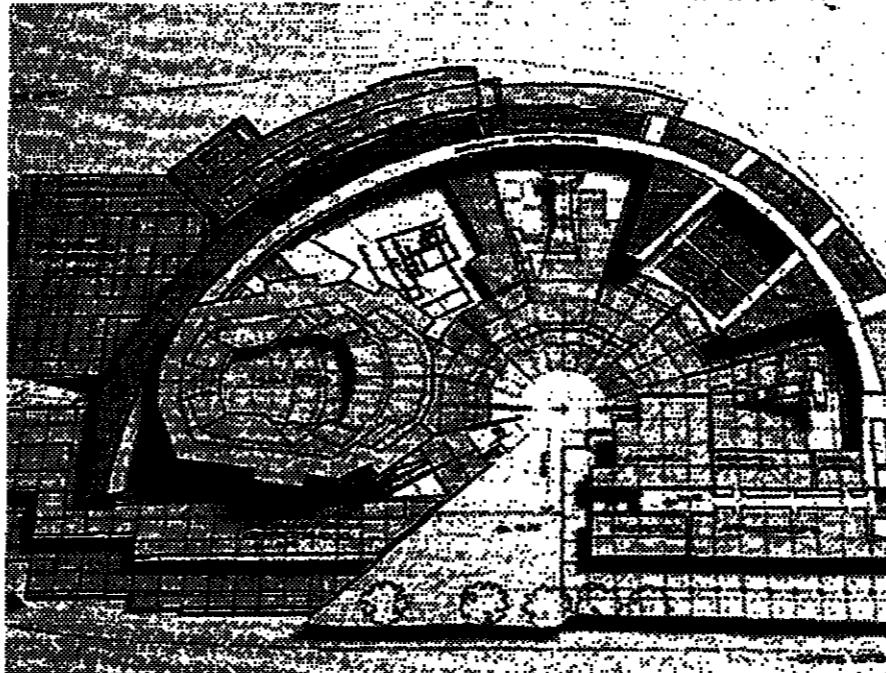
Rome's Concert Center Rises From the Ruins

By John Tagliabue
New York Times Service

ROME—Four years after winning his first commission to design a building in Rome, Renzo Piano watches as three concert halls, known collectively as the Rome Auditorium, rise on the northern outskirts of the city; he hopes they will be ready by 1999, the eve of the new millennium.

Work on the auditorium, the latest project in Italy by the 60-year-old architect, the winner of this year's Pritzker Architecture Prize, has been delayed by criticism of its design and materials, and by the discovery on the building site of Roman ruins. (It is hard to drive a spade into Roman soil without striking ruins.)

Perched atop a vast horseshoe-shaped base of brick and travertine, the \$145 million auditorium comprises three beetle-shaped halls—the largest for 2,700 people, the two smaller ones for 1,500 and 500—and will surround a 3,000-seat outdoor amphitheater. The complex will have restaurants, museums of music and musical instruments, and rehearsal halls, including one sufficiently large for a 120-piece orchestra plus



Part of Renzo Piano's architectural plans for the Rome Auditorium.

A museum will house Roman artifacts and objects found during the digging, including pottery and a remarkable decorative mask.

To be sure, Piano is neither a stranger to controversy nor a newcomer to the design of rooms for music. "I am passionate about music, though not a great expert in music," he said. A close friend is Luciano Berio, the Italian composer.

In 1971, Piano gained instant fame when he and Richard Rogers designed the museum and library in Paris known as the Georges Pompidou Center, with a dramatic, brightly colored exterior of tubes and pipes. With Berio and the French composer Pierre Boulez, Piano also created an underground center for experimental music beside the center.

Piano is a practical man, more interested in getting a building built than in defending the purity of a concept. Modifying the auditorium's design to make the Roman ruins—low walls in volcanic tufa stone—visible to visitors, he said, "was not a problem; it was an enrichment."

The ruins gave "a special taste to the building," he said. "So a part of the scheme is belonging to Rome, while another part is belonging to the universe of music."

"We've been through 63 years of abstinen^ece," complained Bruno Cagli, general manager of the Santa Cecilia, which now rents a hall in central Rome from the Vatican.

By the early 1990s, Rome had a new mayor, Francesco Rutelli, who resolved to embellish the city for the Jubilee. In 1994, an international competition among eight invited architects, including the Dutch architect Herman Hertzberger, was won by Piano.

George Izenour, an American acoustics specialist who served on the jury, said the design of the largest and smallest of Piano's concert halls, with acoustics by the German specialist Helmut Mueller, was based on Berlin's Philharmonic Hall. The third hall will be used mainly for gatherings like conferences. Piano's design, Izenour said, was "far and away the best of the designs, as far as technical aspects were concerned."

In designing the Roman concert halls, Piano responded to the layout of the Berlin Philharmonic, which relies on the so-called vineyard effect, terracing the hall, and where the listeners surround the orchestra, with about 75 percent of the seats facing the musicians and 25 percent behind them.

Piano is known for large, adventuresome projects that stretch the limits of technology and often celebrate it, like the Pompidou Center. But this building more closely recalls some of the museum designs for which the architect is known, most notably the Menil Collection in Houston and the Fondation Beyeler in Basel, Switzerland: spare modernist cubes in which lighting and heating elements are hidden from view.

While the basic shapes of the auditorium's exterior resemble nothing so much as huge leaden beetles from the outside, the interiors will be characterized by sweeping hung ceilings to produce the open spaces that are acoustically desirable yet allow maximum seating arrangements.

The start of construction was scheduled optimistically for 1995, and the inauguration concert for late 1997. But delays set in.

First, a government approval board objected to, among other things, the widespread use of wood, a very un-Roman material, and demanded that the design be altered. Aut^ogus, after all, boasted that he had found the city in brick and left it in marble.

With Rutelli's support, the design remained substantially unchanged, but work was further delayed for almost a year after workmen digging for the foundations unearthed the remains of pre-Christian buildings, including a villa. Only after Piano further changed the plans, rotating the entire complex on its axis and shifting it 18 feet to the north to include the ruins, could work resume.

Piano says the central amphitheater is the "most Roman" part of the auditorium, describing it as "not only a place for making music, but a piazza, a magnificent place, for ice skating in winter, with restaurants. It will make of this a very urban setting."

Piano's plans for the Pompidou Center and for Berlin's Potsdamer Platz also triumphed because of their imaginative use of vast open plazas. At the auditorium, a horseshoe-shaped foyer with restaurants and stores will surround the amphitheater. The concert halls are made of laminated wood sheathed with lead and the architect compares them to the resonance chambers of "three gigantic instruments."

"Wood is not a Roman material," Piano acknowledged, "but it will be covered with lead, and lead is a Roman material."

Work proceeds in several shifts, 14 hours a day, but there is no certainty that all will be ready on time.

"We're keeping our fingers crossed," Piano said.

PEOPLE

A Mexican journalist who survived an assassination attempt last year is among four winners of the 1998 Maria Moors Cabot Prizes, Columbia University has announced. The prizes, for reporting that contributes to inter-American understanding and freedom of the press, will be presented Oct. 22 to: J. Jesus Blanconelos, editor in chief of the weekly *Zeta* in Tijuana, Mexico; Andres Oppenheimer, a foreign correspondent and columnist for The Miami Herald; Edmundo Cruz Vilchez, a reporter for La Republica in Lima, Peru, and William Lawrence Rohter Jr., Caribbean and Central American correspondent for The New York Times. Blanconelos was shot four times and his driver was killed when his car was sprayed with bullets in November. A Mexican judge has issued arrest warrants for seven members of a San Diego gang in connection with the murder and attempted assassination.

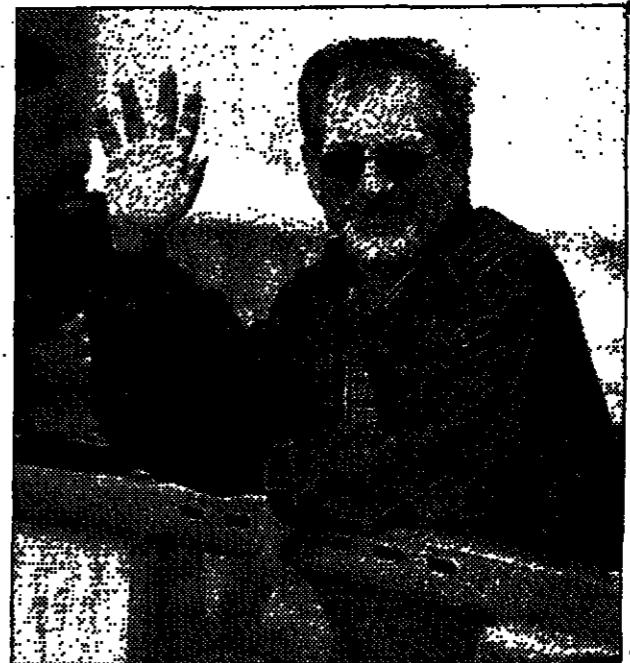
Sign copies of his book when he was admitted to Memorial Medical Center on Sunday. He remains in the coronary intensive care unit. Doctors said he will probably be released in a few days, but still might need surgery.

Robert A.M. Stern, who has designed notable buildings for Berlin, New York's Battery Park City and Walt Disney Co., is expected to be named Wednesday as the dean of the Yale School of Architecture. He will replace Fred Koetter, who has been dean for five and a half years and will return to private practice while remaining a part-time adjunct professor.

Responding to protests from Indians and ecologists, a German artist says he will return a 30-ton rock he took from a pristine national park in Venezuela. Wolfgang Schwanzenfeld wanted to include the rock in a Berlin exhibit of stones from around the world, but it was taken from Canaima National Park, home of the world's highest waterfall and mysterious flat-topped mountains that help inspired Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's classic adventure story, "The Lost World." Schwanzenfeld decided to return the rock after protesters tried to block a truck that was carrying it out of the park.

John Berendt, author of the best-selling book "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil," was hospitalized after suffering a mild heart attack. Berendt, 58, was in Savannah, Georgia, to

In 1998, the Habsburg Emperor Maximilian I decreed that soprano and alto parts be provided in the sacred music performed for the monarchy in the Imperial Chapel. Thus, the Vienna Boys Choir was established. In celebration of its 500th anniversary, the ensemble will tour 10 North American cities from Oct. 12 to 25. Joined by the Chorus Vienensis, an ensemble of former Vienna Boys Choir members, and by the Vienna Chamber Orchestra, the group will present works by, among others, Mozart, Haydn, Schubert and Antonio Salieri, the choir's artistic director for nearly 40 years.



CIAO—Steven Spielberg arriving for the Venice Film Festival. His film "Saving Private Ryan" will open the festival, which runs from Thursday until Sept. 13.

(take in a rock show)

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